

Hafa Adai!

MVA upbeat about arrivals in FY 2020. **PAGE 3**

'Temporary appointments delaying rules for CW, parole' **PAGE 7**

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Grand jury summons out

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the request of assistant U.S. attorney Eric O' Malley, the U.S. District Court for the NMI has subpoenaed the records custodian of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to appear at the court on Jan. 30, 2020, to testify before a grand jury.

» **Lawyer: Grand juries almost always end in indictments**

The subpoena—issued last Nov. 6—commanded the unnamed records custodian of IPI to provide any communications between any owners, executives, or employees

See **JURY** on **Page 4**

FBI scours evidence of violations

» **Fraud, conspiracy, and accepting contributions from foreigners investigated**

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into multiple

possible violations of federal laws that involve Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, his family, and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, resulting in

the execution of search warrants on several sites Thursday last week.

According to a copy of the search warrant executed on IPI's office at the Marina Heights MH-I building in

See **FBI** on **Page 4**

SEARCH TERMS

In executing search warrants Thursday last week, agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation looked for the following:

■ All documents, records, and property (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) that constitute evidence of violations of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1343, 1346, 1349, 1956 and/or 52 U.S.C. § 30121

See **SEARCH** on **Page 4**

80-hour pay period restored

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Months after imposing a 72-hour work week for the CNMI government as part of austerity measures, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced yesterday that he is officially restoring the 80-hour pay period after two weeks.

The 72-hour work schedule, which started on June

See **80-HOUR** on **Page 4**



MVA MEETING

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres attends the Marianas Visitors Authority's general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall yesterday. Torres left the event during the Q&A portion with one of MVA's offshore offices. Persons seen behind Torres are MVA board members Nick Nishikawa and Thomas Liu.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Story on
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INSIDE



LOCAL

Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, travelers within the United States will be required to have a REAL ID.

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BUSINESS

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce unveils a new logo and a new website.

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WORLD

The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years is prompting calls to better protect the city.

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Local

Jackie Quitugua is acting education chief

Jackie Quitugua, the associate commissioner for Instructional Services at the Public

School System, will be serving as deputy education commissioner based on PSS pro-

ocols. However, Quitugua is currently off-island for official business, and interim associate commissioner for Administrative Services Charley Kenty is currently serving as deputy commissioner until Nov. 18.

Saipan Tribune learned that Quitugua will be deputy education commissioner until further notice after former education commissioner Glenn Muña's resigned. The CNMI State Board of Education has yet to decide on a permanent replacement for Muña. The PSS Human Resource Department is right now processing applications and conducting background checks before sending its recommendation to the BOE.

BOE chair Janice Tenorio informed *Saipan Tribune* on Monday that, as per PSS protocols, the deputy commissioner would be either Kenty or Quitugua, as both associate commissioners are under the supervision of the education commissioner.

This move follows Muña's resignation last Sep. 12, where he informed the BOE that his resignation will be effective after 60 days, which was on Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2019. Muña cited personal reasons for his resignation. (Marc A. Venus)

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AFTER A DIFFICULT 2019 MVA upbeat about arrivals in FY 2020

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Fiscal year 2019 was a very difficult year for the CNMI in terms of visitor arrivals, but the CNMI's main tourism body, the Marianas Visitors Authority, is optimistic that tourist numbers will improve in fiscal year 2020. This was the main thrust of the yesterday's MVA general membership meeting at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

At the same time, Gloria C. Cavanagh, who is acting MVA board chair and president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, warned that, if the CNMI wants the economy to survive, the Commonwealth cannot afford to lose Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan and its lone international brand, the Hyatt Regency Saipan, whose land leases are set to expire soon.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios both attended the meeting and sat on the table with members of the MVA board, but Torres left using the back door of the hall during a question-and-answer portion with an MVA offshore office at 11:30am, shortly after Palacios had also left.

Speaking to MVA members, Cavanagh said that, as was mentioned in MVA's general membership meeting a year ago, one critical component that has still not been resolved is the matter of public land leases for two of the CNMI's largest hotels—Fiesta Resort & Spa and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Cavanagh said they are aware that the Department of Public Lands and the hotels have been talking and MVA strongly urges the CNMI government to "complete negotiations before it is, again, too late."

Cavanagh said fiscal year 2019 was a very difficult year in terms of visitor arrivals as total arrivals for the year

were down 32% to just over 400,000 visitors.

Cavanagh said that regaining the ground lost from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018 was a huge task. Just as the CNMI was about to overcome the hurdles created by Yutu—the closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the many months of recovery of flights, and building up the demand from the source markets—that was when the major source markets were hit by softening economies, a trade war between the U.S. and China, and a declining currency exchange rate.

"We all know tourism is a volatile industry, often influenced by national and international factors outside our local control," she said, citing fiscal year 2019 as a "perfect example" of that.

As a result, Cavanagh said, the MVA took a major hit to its budget last fiscal year. She said MVA had initially budgeted \$15.8 million for the year, including about \$400,000 for the Department of Finance enforcement of hotel occupancy tax collections from bed and breakfast establishments, guesthouses, and other establishments, leaving \$15.4 million for marketing and programs.

Cavanagh said that when Yutu hit, that budget was reduced to \$14 million, and then further reduced to less than \$12 million, based on actual collection of hotel occupancy tax during the year.

As of today, only 52% of that funding has been received, Cavanagh said. That's about \$6.2 million given to MVA, with \$5.7 million in receivables that have yet to

See MVA on Page 5

» Torres attends meeting, but left during Q&A



Cavanagh



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SEARCH

From Page 1

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■ All documents, records, and property (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) relating to any transfers or funds or items of greater value than \$1,000, from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, or any of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates, to Ralph Torres, Vincent Torres, Victorino Torres, Joaquin Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue or Ron Li Anderson, Legend Saipan (CNMI), LLC, Marianas Consultancy Services, LLC, Torres Brothers, LLC, VR Company, LLC, in-

cluding but not limited to bank account information (foreign or domestic), account statements, wire transfer requests, financial statements, credit card account information, invoices, cancelled checks, credit reports, loan records, debt obligations, fee schedules, correspondence, applications, telephone records, certificates of incorporation dated on or after September 1, 2013;

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■ All documents, records, and property (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) related to real estate

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■ All documents, records, and property (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) that contain communications between and/or among Ralph Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue or Ron Li Anderson, and any employee, owner, or executive of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, or of

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■ All documents and records (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) relating to tickets, notes, receipts and other items relating to domestic and international travel, including flights, hotel stays, ground transportation, meals and entertainment, by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, or its parents, subsidiaries, or associates, for or on behalf of Ralph Torres, Vincent Torres, Victorino Torres, Joaquin Torres, Diann Torres, Rowina Torres, Brenda Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue, Ron Li Anderson, Legend Saipan (CNMI) LLC, Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, Torres Brothers, LLC, or VR Company LLC, dated on or after September 1, 2013;

■ All documents and records (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) relating

to the purchases or ownership of real estate, vehicles (including watercraft), artwork, luxury items such as name brand watches, jewelry, electronics or furniture by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC, or any of its parents, subsidiaries, or affiliates, for the benefit of Ralph Torres, Vincent Torres, Victorino Torres, Joaquin Torres, Diann Torres, Rowina Torres, Brenda Torres, dated on or after September 1, 2013;

■ All documents and records (whether in the form of printed documents or stored in electronic or digital form) relating to donations and contributions to CNMI or United States political campaigns or to candidates for political office, including all correspondence, electronic or otherwise, related thereto, dated on or after September 1, 2013;

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FBI

From Page 1

Puerto Rico, *Saipan Tribune* learned that the FBI looked for evidence of fraud by wire, radio, or television; attempt and conspiracy; money laundering; and making contributions or donations by foreign nationals.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Torres' chief of staff, Angel Demapan, noted that the governor has cooperated with the ongoing investigation.

"He has always upheld the trust and responsibility of this office and believes that in due time, this investigation will find him clear of any further concern. The process toward clearing his name on this issue will take time, but it is a process that must be respected," Demapan said.

"This is an important process and it is vital that the facts are provided and that the public's concerns be assuaged in due time," he added.

Demapan assured that Torres will continue "to serve the people of the CNMI as he has always done, with integrity and in pursuit of progress for our people.

"He asks for your continued understanding and patience as

this process proceeds toward the eventual clearing of his name," the statement added.

The FBI search warrant combed through a total of 22 possible items related to their investigation, including documents, records, and property that constitute violations; documents, records, and property relating to any transfers of funds or items of greater value than \$1,000 from IPI or any of its parents, subsidiaries or affiliates to Torres, or brothers Vincent Torres, Victorino Torres, Joaquin Torres, Alfred Chi-Yam Yue, Ron L. Anderson, Legend Saipan (CNMI) LLC, Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, Torres Brothers LLC, or VR Company LLC.

The warrant was filed through the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Saipan, and the search warrant was issued on Nov. 6, 2019, a day before the FBI executed the searches. Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona signed the search warrants on Nov. 6, 2019, at 3:56pm.

The search warrant noted that the FBI would be searching the IPI accounting office at MH-I. The agency executed the search warrant on the IPI accounting office on Nov. 8, 2019.

Saipan Tribune learned last

week that search warrants were also executed at Gov. Torres' house and office, the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for IPI, Legend Realty Saipan, and the Torres Brothers' law office.

Details of the search warrants came to light after IPI filed yesterday in the U.S. District Court a motion to stay the civil case lodge against IPI by seven construction employees for alleged injuries they suffered during accidents at the casino resort's worksite in 2017.

A check by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday showed that the motion that IPI filed was unsealed. The search warrants that were filed as exhibits in the motion are sealed but were leaked on social media.

The motion to stay, filed by IPI general counsel Philip Tydingco, appears to cite the search as a reason to put the civil case on hold. Tydingco said that federal law mandates a stay of a civil case during a pending criminal action from the same occurrence the civil action is based upon.

Noting that the injuries of the plaintiffs—Tianming Wang, Dong Han, Yongjun Meng, Liangcai Sun, Youli Wang, Quingchun Xu, and

Xiyang Du—originated from the "casino project" or the construction of the casino in Garapan, Tydingco asserted that the law applies to the civil case since the law did not define the term "occurrence."

"...The first amended complaint and the swirling investigation involving IPI each arises out of and relate to the casino project," Tydingco said.

"Furthermore, a stay is appropriate as IPI should not have to choose between presenting a vigorous defense in this case and not waiving any rights associated with a potential governmental prosecution," he noted.

The workers, all Chinese nationals, are suing Gold Mantis Construction Decoration (CNMI) LLC, MCC International Saipan Ltd. Co., and IPI for alleged forced labor in violation of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act, forced labor in violation of the CNMI Anti-Trafficking Act, negligence, and liability for employees of subcontractor.

The workers alleged, among other things, that they were forced to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino-resort worksite.

The last austerity Friday will be observed on Nov. 22, 2019.

"Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and I appreciate all our government employees for their patience and understanding during the period of austerity and for their continued commitment to serve the people of the Marianas," he said, clarifying that the 80-hour work schedule would be effective come Nov. 24, 2019.

ment was able to bounce back from cash flow woes in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit Tinian and Saipan late October 2018.

"...The secretary of Finance and the special assistant for Management and Budget have informed me that government finances and current cash flow will be sufficient for the restoration of regular 80-hour work schedules for government employees," Torres said.

ule "was a difficult decision to make [but] it was necessary in order to protect our government employees from other more drastic options that would have had more severe impacts. It was further necessary to ensure that our government obligations and services remained stable."

The 72-hour work schedule had been in effect for about five months. Torres explained that, because of the austerity measure, the CNMI govern-

80-HOUR

From Page 1

23, 2019, under Directive 2019-004, is now rescinded, with the issuance of Directive 2020-001, which restores the 80-hour work schedule starting Nov. 24, 2019, or pay period 26.

In his directive yesterday, Torres said that implementing the 72-hour work sched-

JURY

From Page 1

of IPI and Gov. Ralph DLG Torres discussing, directing, or summarizing cash transactions and/or donations to the Friends of Ralph organization or to any other political campaigns on or after Sept. 1, 2013.

Among the documents sought are records relating to land lease or purchase agreements involving IPI and the governor, his brothers—Vincent DLG Torres Jr., Victorino DLG Torres, and Joaquin DLG Torres—or their spouses that resulted in the transfer of funds; cash deposits or transactions made by IPI to the governor and his brothers and their spouses; references of any financial transaction undertaken by members of Torres Brothers LLC for the benefit of the governor, his brothers, and their spouses.

It also sought any communications between IPI involving Ron L. Anderson and/or Alfred Chi-Yam Yue aka Alfred C. Yue relating to or discussing the transfer or exchange of anything of value; documents and records relating to tickets, notes, receipts, and any other items relating to domestic and international travel of the governor, his brothers, and their spouses

Citing his professional experience, Pixley said that grand juries almost always end in indictments. *Saipan Tribune* learned last week that search warrants were executed at Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' house and office; the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for IPI; Legend Realty Saipan; and the Torres Brothers' law office.

payments to the CNMI.

A federal grand jury is a panel of 16 to 23 people that are randomly selected and ultimately decides whether there is a case to be pursued through an indictment, or a formal charge of a crime. Grand jury proceedings are typically kept secret.

"It requires that person or individual [summoned] to appear before the grand jury to testify or to provide documents," longtime Saipan lawyer Steve Pixley told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview. "They basically decide whether or not to issue criminal charges on an individual [or corporation]. It's a pretty one-sided situation."

The grand jury, according to Pixley, is a unique process because individuals who go in to testify are not allowed to do so in the presence of an attorney with them.

"Attorneys can stay outside the grand jury room and give advice, but attorneys are not allowed inside to provide advice in the room," he added.

Only the U.S. attorney and the U.S. assistant attorney are allowed inside the grand jury room, according to Pixley. He further noted that the proceedings of the grand jury couldn't be reported nor attended by the public.

Citing his professional experience, Pixley said that grand juries almost always end in indictments.

Saipan Tribune learned last week that search warrants were executed at Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' house and office; the office of Alfred Yue of Marianas Consultancy Services LLC, a consultant for IPI; Legend Realty Saipan; and the Torres Brothers' law office.

MVA*From Page 3*

be released by the central government.

This budget cut, she said, forced the MVA to reduce its marketing budgets in source markets, causing MVA to cut marketing programs such as consumer and trade shows and cooperative programs with partners.

Furthermore, Cavanagh said, MVA has been forced to close its Russia marketing office, cancel signature events, delay destination enhancement projects, and delay payment to vendors, both local and MVA's off-shore marketing offices.

Cavanagh said looking ahead to fiscal year 2020, although they have lost the Russian parole program and the parole program for Chinese visitors has been reduced to 14 days, things are expected to improve with the commencement of regular, daily direct flights by Skymark Airlines Inc. from Tokyo, Japan, to Saipan beginning Nov. 29, 2019.

She said negotiations to bring back a Japan-based carrier to the Marianas have been in the works for a couple of years and that they were extremely pleased to join with Torres and Skymark president Masahiko Ichie and the Skymark team in making this announcement last month.

If all goes as planned, these flights will bring an estimated 40,000 visitors to the Marianas from Japan this fiscal year, based on an 80% load factor, Cavanagh said.

She said this compares to about 12,000 Japanese visitors received last year.

On MVA's new fiscal year budget, Cavanagh said they are currently projecting \$13.6 million for the year for marketing, programs, operations, and personnel.

"If we receive our hotel occupancy allotments on time on a monthly basis, as required by Public Law 18-1, it will be an improvement over last year," she said.

The next speaker was MVA's representative office in Japan, Japan in-country manager Takashi Ichikura.

Cavanagh also discussed briefly MVA's position about the CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, as it relates to tourism in the Marianas.

She said under this law and once regulations are promulgated, people will be allowed to use marijuana for medicinal and recreational purposes.

However, she said, as marijuana is still illegal federally, U.S. Customs Border Protection has advised that any visitor who states to CBP that they

See MVA on Page 6

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SOUVENIR GIFT

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang presents National Endowment for the Humanities chair Jon Parrish Peede with a souvenir *Animu* for the NEEH chairman "to always remember the CNMI" at a Lunch with the Press yesterday at the Saipan Mayor's Office conference room in Oleai.

IVA MAURIN

MVA

From Page 5

are entering the Marianas to use marijuana may be denied entry and/or banned re-entry.

Cavanagh said the MVA realizes that marijuana is still considered an illicit drug in many of the CNMI's source market countries.

"This may cast a shadow on our image as a family destination. We are awaiting the promulgation of regulations," she said.

Meanwhile, she said, as an agency, MVA does not anticipate undertaking any marketing strategies that may contradict or harm the CNMI's image in those critical markets.

When asked in a later interview why she is the acting MVA chair, Cavanagh said that board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce has a "family emergency thing."

On the presentations of MVA's offshore offices, Cavanagh said she is actually very optimistic, especially after the China presentation, that they have control over how they want to increase

the number of tourists coming from China to the CNMI.

"They look like they understand the market, the changes of how to attract a tourist," she said.

Cavanagh noted that China offshore office created their own emojis for the CNMI. "It sounds like that they are thinking outside the box of what we have done traditionally in the CNMI in trying to bring in [visitors] and promoting and marketing our destination," she said.

Cavanagh hopes that MVA will be able to be on that track despite its funding issues.

In her closing remarks, MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo said that MVA is excited about the new opportunities before the CNMI in fiscal year 2020, especially with the advent of Skymark Airlines' direct flights.

In addition to increased arrivals this fiscal year 2020, Iakopo said they are looking forward to several destination projects, including the Flower Islands Project to turn Banzai Cliff into a garden, the Freedom is Nature Trail at Mt. Sabana on Rota, and the Tinian Beach Pathway.

"Together, we will continue to work with you, our valued partners, in rebooting the Marianas tourism economy to benefit our businesses, our government, and our community at large," she said.

The guest speakers who did the presentation for MVA's offshore offices were Takashi Ichikura for MVA Japan, Adam Li of MVA China, Steven Cheng of MVA Taiwan, and Seijin Kim of MVA Korea.

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BIRTHDAY				
Lunch & Dinner	② 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (7 inch / \$33) ② 1 "Wed. / Fri. Lunch Buffet" G.C. for 2 pax (\$44)	① 1 free Birthday Cake (9 inch / \$53) ② 1 "Sunday Brunch" G.C. for 2 pax (\$64)	① 1 Birthday Cake (7inch, \$53) ② 1 "Seafood Night" G. C. for 2 pax(\$80) ③ 1 free btl of Champagne for toast (\$30)

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Presentation lineup for Saipan conservation conference

Learn more from the 29 researchers and agency professionals who will be sharing conservation insights and science results at the 3rd Annual Marianas Terrestrial Conservation Conference & Workshop next week, Nov. 18-20, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife's Dr. Joshua Guilbert will be speaking about the path to de-listing of the Mariana fruit bat or *fanihi* and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Robbie Greene will talk about the natural resource conditions and needs of the American Memorial Park.

Multiple presenters will also be discussing different aspects of the impact of the invasive brown tree snake in Guam, and the potential for snake control and ecological restoration.

All presentations will be at the Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall from 8am to 5pm on Tuesday, Nov. 19.

The public is also invited to participate in field trips such as canoe rides and a guided forest hike. All events are free and open to the public.

Sign up at marianasterrestrialconservation.org to register and to access the full conference agenda. *(Iva Maurin)*

'Temporary appointments delaying rules for CW, parole'

By **ERWIN ENCINARES**
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) said the temporary appointments to key positions are what is keeping many departments such as U.S. Department of Homeland Security from getting work done.

Sablan noted in an interview Tuesday that the rules and regulations governing the

implementation of Public Law 116-24, or the NMI Long-Term Legal Residents Relief Act, and Public Law 115-218, known as the NMI Workforce Act of 2018, are being delayed because of acting heads for key positions at DHS.

"...We cannot run a department like [Homeland Security] with everybody at the helm in an acting position—acting department head, acting division head. They are all acting,

so it is difficult to get the work done," he said when asked for updates on the rules and regulations for both laws.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services under the DHS has yet to release rules and regulations on how both laws will be implemented.

P.L. 116-24 allows eligible parolees to apply for permanent resident status exclusive to the CNMI, while P.L. 115-218 extended the CW visa

program for the CNMI for an additional 10 years, including an option to apply for a CW permit that is valid for three years instead of a permit that is valid for only one year.

USCIS is currently led by acting director Ken Cuccinelli after former USCIS director Lee Cissna stepped down from the post on June 1, 2019, while DHS as a whole is led by acting secretary Kevin McAleenan, who was appointed to the role in April 2019 after former secretary Kirstjen Nielsen

resigned.

"The rules for [P.L. 116-24] should have already been issued. The rules for the NMI Workforce Act should have already been issued so that many of those that qualify will get three-year visas—[but] it's not," Sablan noted.

"That is where we are at. It's unfortunate. We continue to push and ask people who are beneficiaries or who will be beneficiaries to be patient, but to please make sure they don't fall out of status," he added.

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Businesses tapped for Plastic-Free Marianas

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over a million plastic bags are used worldwide every minute. In the CNMI, five of the top 10 trash collected at the last International Coastal Cleanup were plastic. Microplastics (plastic pieces that are smaller than 2.5 cm) ranked second, plastic bottle caps and lids were fourth and fifth, respectively, and plastic bottles and food wrappers ranked seventh and eighth.

Plastic bottled water, for one, which takes over 1,000 years to degrade, are commonly used

CSO continues outreach efforts on Saipan

The CNMI Scholarship Office’s team continues its outreach efforts on Saipan in preparation of its Scholarship Fair on Nov. 30. The team recently met with United Filipino Organization parents to provide information on the many college access programs available to aspiring college, vocational trade students, and tips on how to use other educational finan-

cial resources before taking on a student loan.

The outreach team then presented to high school students at Mount Carmel School and Marianas High School on Tuesday. Later that day, the team also presented to students and parents at the Koblerville Youth Center.

The campaign’s motto is “No to student loans.” (*Marc A. Venus*)

on the island. This makes the CNMI a contributor to the 35 billion plastic bottles being thrown away by Americans every year. That’s on top of single-use plastics, like drinking straws, which are also predominantly used on the island.

With this plastic problem on the islands, measures are being explored to resolve this, including a blanket ban on single-use plastic bags that is being mulled at the Legislature, and to ban the importation, production, distribution, and use of this plastic.

through its Division of Coastal Resources Management, is about to launch the Plastic-Free Marianas program and is working with a major local business to pilot the program.

“We will help businesses identify the ways that they can cut back on their plastic consumption with the ultimate goal of becoming a zero-waste company,” DCRM communications specialist Mallory Muña said. “We rely so much on importing, and everything is usually wrapped in plastic. One of the biggest things with Plastic-Free Marianas is educating people about their consumption, and not just on the afterthoughts of what do they do with all these plastic [that they have acquired].”

Plastic audits will be conducted, and plastic-free partners would have to commit to implement measures to cut down on the use of single-use

plastics.

“I’ve been noticing just going around the island that there are businesses now that don’t provide plastic straws anymore,” ICC coordinator Colleen Flores said. “That could be the first step. We could work with [these businesses] in the future to take more steps to become more plastic-free.”

Several restaurants on the island have already transitioned into using bamboo or metal straws, metal cutlery and glass plates, with several shops also now advocating the use of reusable bags.

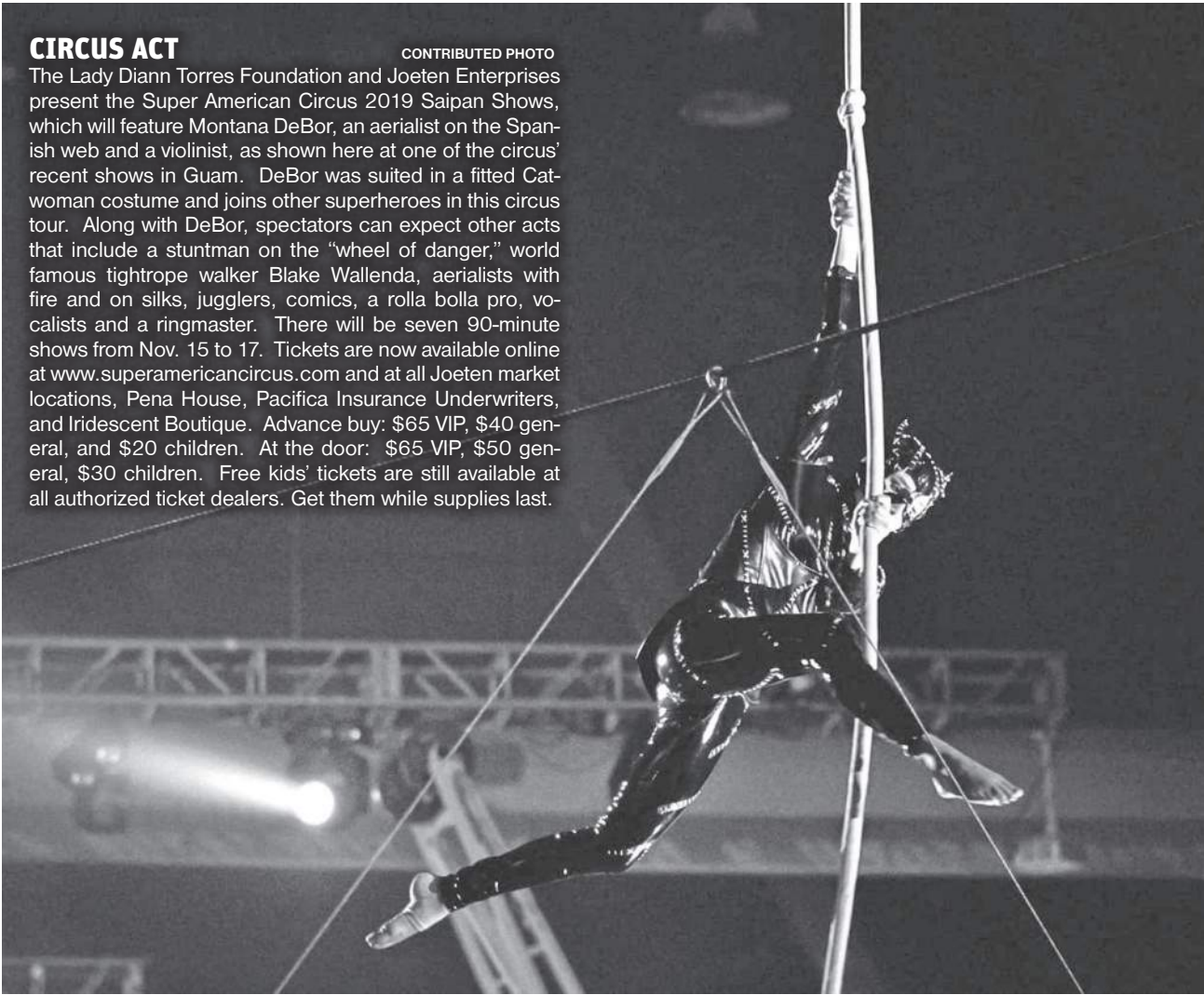
Aside from businesses, DCRM is also looking into CNMI having its first plastic-free event, and into schools as plastic-free spaces.

For more information about Plastic-Free Marianas and on how to become a plastic-free partner, contact Flores at cflores@dcrm.gov.mp.

CIRCUS ACT

The Lady Diann Torres Foundation and Joeten Enterprises present the Super American Circus 2019 Saipan Shows, which will feature Montana DeBor, an aerialist on the Spanish web and a violinist, as shown here at one of the circus' recent shows in Guam. DeBor was suited in a fitted Catwoman costume and joins other superheroes in this circus tour. Along with DeBor, spectators can expect other acts that include a stuntman on the "wheel of danger," world famous tightrope walker Blake Wallenda, aerialists with fire and on silks, jugglers, comics, a rolla bolla pro, vocalists and a ringmaster. There will be seven 90-minute shows from Nov. 15 to 17. Tickets are now available online at www.superamericancircus.com and at all Joeten market locations, Pena House, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, and Iridescent Boutique. Advance buy: \$65 VIP, \$40 general, and \$20 children. At the door: \$65 VIP, \$50 general, \$30 children. Free kids' tickets are still available at all authorized ticket dealers. Get them while supplies last.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-001-20 REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (Authority) is soliciting sealed proposals for service providers to provide appraisal services on the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan properties. The service provider shall perform the appraisal services pursuant to the Scope of Work in the RFP package. The purpose of this appraisal is to establish the properties true replacement cost value to satisfy underwriting concerns in establishing appropriate levels of property insurance coverage and market rent of its commercial spaces at the Saipan Airport and Port of Saipan.

Request for Proposal (RFP) package may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport beginning October 18, 2019, from Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A pre-proposal meeting will be held on November 8, 2019, 10:00 A.M., at the Authority's Conference Room, 2nd Floor Departure Building, Saipan International Airport.

Deadline for submission of all questions and clarifications (RFI) is November 18, 2019. All questions should be submitted via email to chris.tenorio@cpa.gov.mp with copy to atudel@cpa.gov.mp and joydlg@cpa.gov.mp.

Deadline for submission of all proposals is Friday, November 29, 2019, before 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time (Saipan Time). All proposals must be addressed to Christopher S. Tenorio, Executive Director and submitted to his office, mentioned above.

CPA shall have the right to reject, in whole or in part, proposals or offers which have been submitted in response to the RFP, and/or cancel the RFP if it is determined to be in the interest of CPA and/or for whatever reasons allowed by law and/or regulations. This right to reject and/or cancel is also pursuant to CPA Procurement Regulations.

Proposer's direct or indirect contact with any CPA board members, management, staff, or any persons participating in the election process is prohibited.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA) CNMI GOVERNMENT

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-003-20 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF AUTOMOTIVE DIESEL OIL

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the supply and delivery of Automotive Diesel Oil for its use at the Saipan International Airport and Port of Saipan.

The RFP package is available beginning November 01, 2019 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Interest proposers must submit one original and two copies of the sealed proposal. The sealed proposals must be submitted before 4:30 p.m., November 22, 2019, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals if in its opinion to do so is in CPA's best interest.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD

P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
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Email: cnmi@cnmibpl-hcplb.net
Website: cnmibpl-hcplb.net

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on **Monday, November 18, 2019 at 8am** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CHCC Conference Room #2, Lower Navy Hill.

AGENDA

- Meeting Call to Order
- Determination of Quorum
- Review and Adoption of Agenda
- Review and Adoption of Minutes (10/31/19)
- Public Comments
- Chairman's Report
 - Meeting with Lilian Tenorio (AAG)
 - Retention of Shawn Frink
- Director's Report
- Investigator's Report
- Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - Governor's Office
 - Legislature
 - Medical Assistants
- Old Business
- New Business
 - New Complaint
- Pending Applications for Board's Review
 - New Applications
 - Renewal Applications
- Miscellaneous Business
- Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- Announcements
 - Next Meeting Date
 - Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Theodore R. Parker, R.Ph., MPH
Chairman

CHCC works to align services

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp. is currently in the midst of aligning its services throughout the CNMI, with the goal of elevating health services on Tinian and Rota to the same level as that of Saipan's.

This new structure envisions achieving health equity for Tinian and Rota residents. That would mean advances at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan will be made simultaneously at the Tinian and Rota health centers.

This alignment of services is seen to increase operating efficiencies and each setting will be transformed to provide comprehensive primary care.

Each of the health centers on Tinian and Rota has been operating largely in isolation, missing opportunities for mutual support, innovation, and modernization within CHCC. With CHCC acquiring management responsibilities for both centers, changes are currently being made to the organizational structure of either clinic.

Some of those planned improvements are additional medical providers who will live on either island full-time

for care continuity. Electronic enhancements such as scheduling systems and tele-pharmacy conferences have now been implemented in order to help CHCC continue to provide the varied services on Tinian and Rota. Assessments of radiology and laboratory capabilities are being undertaken to explore opportunities for service growth.

These changes come on the heels of community feedback and requests, where residents on both islands want to build relationships with their medical care provider, which can be difficult when providers are rotating in and out of Saipan. Other challenges cited by residents include the limited on-island ancillary services and medical record exchange with the hospital on Saipan.

With these impending changes, Tinian Health Center resident director Rodney Cabarles expects better communication and support for Tinian, while Rota Health Center resident director Vanessa Quitugua believes that the technology to make this move now exists and will be helpful to expand services like telemedicine.

"We're all learning from each other through this process and it feels great to have a

whole network of people that I can rely on to help our health center deliver high quality primary care," Quitugua said.

CHCC asks for the community's patience while these changes take place. Other changes to be expected at both the Rota and Tinian health centers include making appointments for non-emergency visits, preparing for more thorough visits with medical providers, and anticipating other procedural changes which may be unfamiliar at first, but are designed to improve efficiency. Patients will also begin to notice that a greater scope of services are offered during visits.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



Happy 17th birthday to Crystal Teofilia R. Deleon Guerrero! We love you. Greetings come from Dad, DJ, Franny, and Maria.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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IT&E GIVES \$10K TO CLUB 200

IT&E was a Chief Taga Sponsor for Club 200, the signature fundraising event of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, which was held on Nov. 9, 2019, at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Jim Oehlerking, CEO of IT&E, third from left, said, "We're proud to be able to support American Red Cross-NMI Chapter once again. We see first-hand how their contributions benefit our community in times of need and we remain committed to supporting the organization as they continue to do good work." Others in photo are, from left, J.D. Tenorio, Disaster Program manager; John Hirsh, executive director, both of American Red Cross-NMI Chapter; Jean Sablan; Tanya Camacho, both ARC board members; Velma Palacios, Network Operations & Engineering director at IT&E; and Bob Coldeen, ARC board member.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agrihan, Pagan, Alamagan under Typhoon Condition I

Tropical Storm 26W now has a name: Fengshen.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, as of 5:30pm yesterday, Tropical Storm Fengshen continues moving west at 18 mph, and with maximum sustained winds of 60 mph.

A typhoon warning remains in effect for Agrihan, Pagan,

and Alamagan. Damaging winds, including winds of 39 mph or more, were expected late last night, with typhoon conditions, including winds of 74 mph or more, expected early this morning.

As of 4pm yesterday, Tropical Storm Fengshen was spotted about 200 miles southeast of Agrihan, about 170 miles east-southeast of Pagan, about 155 miles east-southeast of Alamagan, about 215 miles northeast of

Saipan, and about 340 miles northeast of Guam

Fengshen is expected to turn to a west-northwest track through last night that will take it near Pagan early this morning. Fengshen will then turn slowly northwest today as it moves away from the Marianas.

Maximum sustained winds remain at 60 mph. Slow intensification is forecast the next couple of days, and Fengshen is expected to become a ty-

phoon shortly after it passes through the CNMI.

Because of the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm Fengshen, Typhoon Condition I has been declared over Agrihan, Pagan and Alamagan. This means that damaging winds of 75 mph or more are expected within 12 hours.

The Emergency Opera-

tions Center State Warning Point will be monitoring the movement of Tropical Storm Fengshen and will be issuing out bulletins as they become available. Keep a close watch on updates to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories, which will be available through

local media sources and NOAA weather radio broadcast on 162.5 megahertz, or call the EOC State Warning Point at 237-8000 or 664-8000, and for the Northern Islands to contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at high frequency single side band radio on frequency 5.205.0. (PR)

Water service outage on Monday


The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said yesterday that there will be a scheduled water service interruption for customers along the main road of Kagman (route 34) to the Laulau Bay area on Monday, Nov. 18, 2019, from 8:30am to 3:30pm. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged 8-inch water mainline located on the westbound lane of Route 34 in Kagman.

For the safety of our men and women working at the site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and

take alternative routes when traveling by the area as the west bound of Route 34 will be closed.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-19-038

REPAIR OF OIL STORAGE TANKS – CUC SAIPAN AND ROTA POWER PLANTS

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified and experienced firms for the Repair of Oil Storage Tanks – CUC Saipan and Rota power plants, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Most of the tanks are still in "active" use.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-bid Conference and a Site Visit is scheduled on **October 23 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at CUC Saipan Power Plant No. 1, Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan and **October 24 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at CUC Rota Power Plant, Songsong Village, Rota, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or performance of work under the contract.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "IFB CUC-19-038: Repair of Oil Storage Tanks, CUC Saipan and Rota power plants" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on November 18, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of **fifteen percent (15%)** of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of **one hundred percent (100%)** of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The bidder is required to submit a copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – <http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm>. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the terms of Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2). CUC may split the contract work based on island location, i.e. separate contracts for the island of Saipan and Rota in the best interest of expediency and competitive rates. Project performance quality would be verified by third party quality assurance specialists with certified and approved credentials.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on October 28, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to CUC's Utility Coordinator/ ATMO at email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, at email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

ROBERT T. TORRES (F0197)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758 CK
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Attorney for Marianas Public Land Trust

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**MARIANAS)
PUBLIC LAND) Civil Action
TRUST,) No. 10-0312
Plaintiff,)
vs.) [Proposed] ORDER
CLARISSA M.) CONTINUING HEARING ON
FEJERAN and) PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR
WATSON SAM,) JUDICIAL SALE OF
Defendants.) MORTGAGED PROPERTY**

THIS MATTER came before the Court on October 29, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in Courtroom B at the Marianas Business Plaza Court for the Northern Mariana Islands on Plaintiff Marianas Public Land Trust's Motion for Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. Attorney Charity Hodson, standing in for Attorney Robert T. Torres, appeared for Plaintiff. Defendants Clarissa M. Fejeran and Watson Sam did not appear. The Court found that a Declaration of Due Diligence on several attempted services were made upon the borrowers at their known off-island address with regards to the Motion for Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property. With regard to the Sua Sponte Order rescheduling the hearing to October, 29, 2019, no attempts at service were made due to the short notice of the Sua Sponte Order.

Due to the issues with service in this matter and possible evasion of service by the Defendants, the Court ordered that Plaintiff shall publish this Order in both newspapers (Marianas Variety and Saipan Tribune) once before the next hearing date.

Good cause appearing, this matter is hereby **CONTINUED to December 3, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.**, in the Marianas Business Plaza, the designated Superior Court for the Northern Mariana Islands; all parties are ordered to appear at the courthouse before 9:00 a.m.

SO ORDERED this 12th day of November, 2019.

/s/
Teresa Kim-Tenorio, Associate Judge

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**IN THE MATTER) Civil Action
OF THE ESTATE) No. 19-0330
OF)
DOROTHEA) NOTICE OF HEARING
ITIBUS ILO,) ON PETITION FOR
Deceased.) LETTERS OF
ADMINISTRATION and
NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of RYAN RAY ILO for the issuance of letters of administration of this estate will be heard before the Honorable Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding/Associate Judge, on the 5th day of December, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the Marianas Business Plaza, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, of any, why the order should not be made.

For further particulars, please refer to the Petition on file herein, or contact counsel for Petitioner, Joey P. San Nicolas, P.O. Box 10,001 PMB 602, Saipan, MP 96950; telephone (670) 234-7659 and email jpsn@sannicolaw.net.

Pursuant to Rule 21, NMI R. Prob. P., notice is hereby given to all creditors of the decedent, DOROTHEA ITIBUS ILO, or of her estate, that they must file their claims with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, within sixty (60) days of the first publication of this Notice, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2019.

/s/
Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**ESTATE OF) Civil Action
FABIANA) No. 91-940
OLAITIMAN)
OLORIT,) ORDER SETTING MOTION
Deceased.) HEARING ON PETITIONERS
VERIFIED MOTION
TO REOPEN CASE**

Petitioners Verified Motion to Reopen Case filed on November 11, 2019 is set for a Motion hearing on December 19, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Marianas Business Plaza, Second Floor. All parties are ordered to appear.

Opposition, if any, shall be due on or before December 2, 2019. Reply, if any, shall be due on or before December 16, 2019.

At this time, the Court has NOT granted the Motion to Reopen. Petitioners shall publish this Order once in the newspaper and shall file a proof of publication with the Court.

Petitioners shall serve a copy of the Verified Motion to Reopen Case and this Order on all the heirs that were established on the Decree of Final Distribution filed March 29, 1993 as well any businesses. A proof of service shall be filed with the Court.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 14th day of November, 2019.

/s/
Joseph N. Camacho, Associate Judge

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Department of Homeland Security reminds travelers that the upcoming REAL ID requirement and enforcement will start 11 months from today. Beginning Oct. 1, 2020, every air traveler must present a REAL ID-compliant driver's

license, state-issued enhanced driver's license, or other acceptable forms of identification, such as a valid passport or U.S. military ID, to fly within the United States. Individuals who are unable to verify their identity will not be permitted to enter the Transportation Secu-

Revised regs for recruiting US workers for temp non-agri jobs

WASHINGTON, DC—The U.S. departments of Labor and Homeland Security posted yesterday a Final Rule on the Office of Foreign Labor Certification website amending the regulations that govern the H-2B temporary non-agricultural labor certification. This rule will aid Americans looking to find and fill some of the 7 million open jobs in the United States.

The departments are modernizing and improving the labor market test that the Department of Labor uses to assess whether qualified American workers are available to fill temporary non-agricultural jobs by: (1) rescinding the requirement that all employers advertise in a print newspaper of general circulation in the area of intended employment; and (2) advertising of all H-2B opportunities on SeasonalJobs.dol.gov, the expanded

and improved version of DOL's existing electronic job registry.

These changes will reduce regulatory burdens associated with ineffective recruitment requirements and bring the H-2B visa program into line with the modern recruitment practices of employers and the job-seeking practices of American workers. SeasonalJobs.dol.gov, a mobile-friendly and centralized online platform, will offer more robust and personalized search capabilities as well as provide information about non-agricultural job opportunities in a format that is compatible with third-party job search websites.

Interested stakeholders may obtain a fact sheet on the new regulations as well as a copy of the Final Rule that will be published in the Federal Register on the OFLC website at www.foreign-laborcert.doleta.gov. (PR)

DHS: No REAL ID, no flying within the US



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
REAL ID-compliant licenses are marked by a star on the top of the card.

rity Administration checkpoint and will not be allowed to fly.

"This is an important step in enhancing commercial aviation security and we urge travelers to ensure they have compliant documents," said Acting Secretary Kevin K. McAleenan. "DHS is committed to working with states as they continue their efforts to issue REAL IDs to Americans."

In January of 2017, only 26 states were REAL ID compliant. Now, 47 out of 50 states are currently REAL ID compliant. Among U.S. territories, an inc.com article states that all are compliant with the exception of the CNMI, which have an extension until Feb. 28, 2020, and American Samoa, which is under review. An

interactive map that includes details on each state/territory can be found on the REAL ID Act website, <https://www.dhs.gov/real-id>.

Much work remains to be done. Only 27% of Americans have been issued a REAL ID at this time.

DHS has been working to increase public attention and focus on the upcoming deadline. Beginning in April this year, TSA has displayed signs at airports notifying the public of changing requirement. In August, TSA began verbally advising travelers who present non-compliant licenses of the upcoming REAL ID requirement and enforcement date. TSA has also co-hosted REAL ID events with motor vehicle ad-

ministration officials in numerous locations around the country throughout the spring and summer, with more to come.

REAL ID-compliant licenses are marked by a star on the top of the card. Michigan, Vermont, Minnesota, and New York states issue both REAL ID and state-issued enhanced driver's licenses, both of which are acceptable. Washington state issues enhanced driver's licenses only. These documents will be accepted at the airport security checkpoint when the REAL ID enforcement goes into effect. Travelers who are not sure if their state-issued ID is compliant should check with their state driver's license agency.

In addition, DHS has been

working closely with the government officials of all 56 states and territories as well as the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators and the National Governors Association to implement REAL ID and provide technical assistance.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act implements the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the federal government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards for official purposes, such as at airport security checkpoints. The regulations established the deadline of October 1, 2020, to ensure full enforcement of the REAL ID Act. States have made considerable progress in meeting this key recommendation of the 9/11 Commission. (PR, with Saipan Tribune edits)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

Tel. (670) 234-6866 / 234-9447 / 234-7689 / 234-7670
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

Arnold I. Palacios
Lt. Governor

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This ad is paid for by NMHC funds.

Notice is hereby given that the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is the agency authorized to allocate Low Income Housing Tax Credits (Credits) in the CNMI. The United States 1986 Tax Reform Act created the federal low-income housing tax credit program under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) to assist with the development of low-income rental housing by providing qualified owners with credit to offset their federal tax obligations. The Credits are available to owners/developers of qualifying buildings and projects that meet certain low-income occupancy and rent restrictions.

Section 42 of the Code provides that the CNMI prepare a Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to determine housing priorities and to give preference to projects serving the lowest income tenants and projects obligated to serve qualified tenants for the longest periods. The QAP must incorporate selection criteria, which includes project location, housing need characteristics, sponsor characteristics, tenant populations with special needs, and public housing waiting lists.

NMHC has developed a QAP for 2019 - 2020 and is available at NMHC's office and website. The QAP describes the basis that NMHC will use to allocate Credits. NMHC may allocate **\$146,328** in Credits for the 2019 program year and approximately **\$3,166,875** in Credits for the 2020 program year.

Application for Credits

Owners/Developers wishing to apply for the Credits should obtain and complete a LIHTC Application. The LIHTC Application may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950 or through our website at www.nmhc.gov.net.

Owners/Developers must file the completed LIHTC Application along with the **\$2,500.00 Application Fee** at NMHC's office by the Application Deadline of **4:30 pm, January 31, 2020**. NMHC staff will review the application and will notify the Owner/Developer of any deficiencies by 15 days time or **February 17, 2020**. The owner/developer will be given 14 days to correct any deficiencies. Any corrections or supplemental information requested by NMHC must be received by **4:30 pm March 2, 2020**. The projects will be scored and recommendations made to the NMHC Board of Directors for approval at its **April/May 2020** Board Meeting.

Notification of Awards

NMHC will notify Owners/Developers of the projects receiving Credits thirty (30) days following the April/May 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. The reservation letter must be signed and returned to NMHC by no later than thirty (30) days from the date of notification.

For more information on this program, please contact NMHC at 234-6866/7670/9447.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or persons requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Should you require such arrangements, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna at telephone numbers 234-6866/7670/9447.



CNMI DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE



COMMONWEALTH
DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY

Learn How to Prepare a Financial Plan

A financial plan is the heart of any startup and existing business. It is a culmination of the income statement, the cash-flow projection, and the business' balance sheet. The financial plan is a way to look at a business through a financial lens, which is the view most investors or bankers prefer. When preparing a financial plan, it is not mandatory that you be a mathematician, but you need to understand how the numbers affect a business. This training will provide a foundation on financial reports and methodology to develop the numbers for those reports. This training is an entry level training.

TO REGISTER:

<https://pisbdcn.eccenterdirect.com/events/4422>

For more information, visit our website at
www.pacificsbdc.com or call
CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018



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Date: November 19, 2019
Time: 9:30AM- 11:30AM

FREE TRAINING

Location:
CNMI Women's Center,
Building # 1223
Capitol Hill

Presented by:



Nicole Babauta
Director &
Business Advisor
CNMI SBDC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Supreme sanity

Here's a ray of light in a nation locked in darkness by the gun lobby and legislators in its thrall: The Supreme Court has given families of children slaughtered at Sandy Hook Elementary the right to pursue their case against a gun-maker in Connecticut court, an affirmation that federal law granting firearm manufacturers immunity does not trump a far more basic need to demand corporate accountability.

Tuesday, the nation's highest court let stand a decision by Connecticut's highest court, which in March said families could pursue their allegation gun-maker Remington violated state consumer protection laws, irresponsibly marketing weapons of mass murder to unstable young men.

There's a powerful case to be made the company did exactly that when it manufactured guns capable of firing rounds with frightening speed and force and then promoted them using ads like the one that clearly resonated with Newtown mass murderer Adam Lanza.

"Consider your man card reissued," it read.

Just because it's legal, for now, in America, to make guns that can kill scores doesn't mean they can be marketed with no legal restrictions.

That maxim finds its match in the fact two cretins who wrote the book "Nobody Died at Sandy Hook," who accused a grieving father of faking his own son's death certificate, were in October ordered to pay Leonard Pozner \$450,000.

The First Amendment isn't license to libel. The Second Amendment isn't license to irresponsibly market weapons of war to young men primed to kill. To rephrase an old legal saw, the Constitution isn't an assault rifle aimed at the nation's heart.

(c) 2019 New York Daily News

Congress should make DACA permanent

Predicting how the U.S. Supreme Court will decide a case based on the questions the justices raise during oral arguments is a fraught endeavor, but the tenor of those exchanges Tuesday morning did not bode well for supporters of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., a potential swing vote, at times seemed to give credence to the Trump administration's argument that President Obama lacked the legal authority to create DACA in the first place.

If the court ultimately finds that President Trump has the authority to end the program regardless of his spurious rationale, the damage to the so-called Dreamers receiving protections, and to the communities in which they live, could be disastrous. It would give the court's imprimatur to one of the harshest approaches to immigration in modern American history.

DACA, for those who don't remember, is the process

See CONGRESS on Next Page



A trail of unsurprising comments

Tourists like to see something new at a destination. New restaurants, new optional tour experiences, a new hotel or resort. While the Garapan Heritage Trail has been a work-in-progress for a long time, its recent completion and official launch is a major new attraction in the tourism site quiver of Saipan.

The historic marked trail project was spearheaded by and worked through to completion by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council with financial support by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior.

This trail with 20 interesting stops can be enjoyed all at once or a few stops at a time over a number of days. Each of the carefully chosen stop has an attraction of historical interest, signage and a numbered entry on the well-done Heritage Trail Guide/map available for free at a number of Garapan locations. The map is printed in English, Japanese, Korean, Russian, and simplified Chinese. It can easily be used as a self-guided tour aid that leaves the user with a broad range of knowledge about 20 historically interesting sites in and around Garapan.

The trail guide starts with a brief history of the area known today as Garapan. It goes on to describe in brief detail the significance of each site while the accompanying map guides the visitor from site to site and is easy to follow. The trail sites can be explored a few at a time at your own pace or as time allows. All can be reached on foot, by bicycle or by motor vehicle except for the first one, Managaha Island, where a boat is needed. Many boats ply the lagoon waters from shore to Managaha ferrying passengers to and from the beautiful little island and popular watersports experiences like parasailing or snorkeling the crystal-clear waters so you need not miss exploring this fun island.

Three sites expose the viewer to Japanese bunker fortifications designed to repel the American invasion of Saipan in 1944. American Memorial Park is described and can make a day's interesting outing checking out the well-done museum and looking over the expansive grounds of the park and the numerous memorials scattered around it. There is even a carillon bell tower to excite the music lover in you. Then the trail takes you to western Garapan and a pair of Japanese era sites, then on south on Beach road to the Carolinian Utt and a latte stone monument near the present day DFS mall. Then on to the Nanbo pier and the Garapan (Fishing Base) dock and the Japanese fortification just south of the dock.

Cross Beach Road to the back of the Kristo Rai church and check out the ruins of the old church's bell tower and descriptive signage. Then up the hill to the administration hill from the German era. Next is the most interesting of the 20 sites, the NMI Museum of History and Culture. Hours can be spent profitably exploring this newly renovated treasure housed in the Japanese era hospital building.

Cross Middle Road (Chalan Pale Arnold) to see four points of interest in the Sugar King Park. The newly restored Sugar Train Locomotive; the bronze statue of the Sugar King, Haruji Matsue,

SOUR GRAPES

By BRUCE BATEMAN

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Bruce A. Bateman resides on Saipan with a wife, a son, and an unknown number of boonie dogs. He has owned and operated a number of unusual businesses and most recently worked as the marketing manager for MVA. Bruce likes to read, travel, tinker with bicycles, hike, swim, and play a bit of golf. He is opinionated and writes when the moon is full and the mood strikes.

dedicated in 1934; the beautiful Shinto Shrine (Jinga) built in 1931 now fully restored/rebuilt as the Saipan Katori Jinga; and the German era steps constructed in 1914.

The final site on the trail is the old Japanese Jail just west of Middle Road a quarter mile south of the Sugar King Park. All 20 are worth checking out. All have descriptive signages that, along with the helpful descriptions in the trail guide, make your experience a fruitful and fun one.

Go explore them all and take your kids, they'll have a good time too. There are Pokémon Go to be found along the way in case they want to multitask.

Pundit's response 'not surprising'

Propst, Tina, Kilili, and the other usual Democratic Party suspect's response to the no-news-so-far FBI probe is not surprising. It is as expected as rain on Saipan. With nothing to go on and no official word of any kind, they blab on for paragraphs about how "sad" it all is while pretending they know all about it, when they don't.

While they call themselves independents, not one of them really is. They are Democrat Party sycophants to a man. Their axe to grind vis a vis the elected Republican Party local officials is as obvious as a pie-eyed horse. They simply hope to convert their "disappointment" into a few votes for the left.

Before you jump to the conclusion that their politically-based rants are spot on, look at the evidence. There is none right now to look at. Wild speculation aside, and political pushing and shoving aside, there is literally nothing to see yet.

That won't stop the likes of Mr. Facebook. He'll do this time just what he did last year. He'll invent some cock-and-bull story, spice it up with some Tinian chilis and "leak" it to his commie pals over at Bloomberg where they will add some more fiction and print the resulting BS as gospel.

I suggest we all relax, wait for something definitive and, when there is something concrete to talk about, the conversation can begin. Right now it's a lynch mob attitude and a dogpile of no information and quackery and misinformation spread by the usual suspects. Let's wait and see what is really happening.

Thanks for reading Sour Grapes!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Historic raid

The recent high-profile raid of the governor's office by the FBI made global "news." It was a show of legal supremacy.

The raid gives prominence to two statutes: the CNMI's rights to self-government versus superiority of federal laws. Where there's conflict, federal law takes precedence. Constitutional!

In the meantime, the total lack of information on the raid leaves people speculating strictly on rumor-based information.

Were federal laws violated, prompting the raid of the governor's office? If so, what were the violations of law?

Why is both sides mum on an issue that mandates public information? It begins to pile up like the comical impeachment inquiry across the sea.

COMMENTS

From Page 12

Obama crafted in 2012 to defer deportations for people who have lived in the United States illegally since they were children, provided that they are employed or attending school and have not been convicted of serious crimes, among other criteria. It goes without argument that the 700,000 or so people currently receiving protection from deportation were living here without permission prior to gaining DACA status. But it makes no sense to oust the Dreamers from the only country they have ever really known, and to deport them to countries that are not only foreign to them, but where in many case they don't even speak the language. Remember, most of the Dreamers bear little to no responsibility for their predicament since they arrived as children in the care of parents or guardians.

The Trump administration argues that Obama stretched federal immigration law past its breaking point with the DACA order, and in 2017 it sought to kill the program as legally indefensible. This gets into arcane areas of authority, but DACA's defenders argue that the president can't scrap a program because he thinks it's illegal; that's a decision for the courts. A president can end or reverse a predecessor's order because he thinks it's bad policy, if he sets out a well-reasoned argument explaining why. With DACA, the Trump administration failed to do so.

Beyond the legal wrangling lies the fate of 700,000 people (including Dreamers who are parents of more than 250,000 U.S. citizens, according to the Center for American Progress) who currently can go about their lives and legally hold jobs, pay taxes and be openly active members of their communities without constantly looking over their shoulders for Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers. It's a popular program. An overwhelming majority of Americans, including Republicans, tell pollsters they believe the government should leave the Dreamers alone and that they be allowed to pursue a path to citizenship.

Whatever the court decides—and we fervently hope it comes down on the side of the Dreamers—this issue is best resolved for the long term by Congress. To its credit, Congress has tried, sort of, to craft a permanent solution. Even President Trump has previously said he would support legislation helping the Dreamers. But then he erected a roadblock by insisting that in return for his support Congress must also approve unrelated measures to fund his wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and make other changes to border security. As we've argued, that's not negotiating, it's hostage-taking, and Congress was right to refuse to deal.

Congress should push through a clean bill offering legal standing and a path to citizenship to qualified Dreamers. It is an issue of fairness that has broad appeal across the political spectrum except, notably, among Trump's immigration hard-liners. It's troubling, not to mention dysfunctional, that a relative handful of xenophobes can block a sensible humanitarian effort to grant legal status to people the vast majority of Americans think deserve to become fellow citizens.

A pro-DACA decision by the Supreme Court would be welcome, but it is not a long-term solution since the Trump administration—or any future anti-immigrant regime—could simply go through the correct bureaucratic process and end the protections. A legislative solution is years overdue, and Democrats and Republicans coming together in the House and the Senate to achieve this popular end could help put the lie to the general presumption that our elected representatives no longer have the courage or the competence to do the work for which they were sent to Washington.

(c)2019 Los Angeles Times

The negative publicity depicts ill-fated disposition of issues under self-government. It requires real leadership endowed with depth, perception and commitment, not more disoriented followership.

I share Kilili's sentiment that it is humiliating, though I find it more condescending! We've had our share of misgivings since 1977 but never a raid at dawn!

Bankruptcy

Understood the drop in revenue initially triggered by a super-storm. It meant prudence in spending scarce resources.

Amidst the disaster are the more troubling tidings of the exit of Nippon investments from the islands. Have we looked into the impact of this phenomenon in terms of dollar figures or "not yet, already?"

As this develops, CHC now owes CUC some \$32 million that indicates financial hardship at home.

The negative fiscal implications are dire and this is where we employ prudence to the hilt or employees won't be able to cash their paychecks at banks to pay for family needs.

There's the term "planning" that grants the NMI time to reset buttons in the event so-called Plan "A" goes off the rails. Did we see this coming or simply treated it with the usual "que sera?"

It's a heavy loss and unless there's something in the backburner to cushion it, we're headed into the persistent "fund insufficiency" season. Or is it more like bankruptcy?

The mounting fiscal instability is bad tidings for the CNMI. Unless investment resurges, we'd be selling pencils between As Gonno and As Matuis sooner than later. I trust we could reset buttons to reinvent investments once more, sayu?

Shore

I recently met pull-net fishermen along the Oleai-Garapan shoreline. A seasoned fisherman was coaching the work of the group. Gratifying to see several young boys partaking or learning this form of traditional fishing.

It looks like fun but it's actually hard work, splashing water as you leap forward to scare fish to blindly do the kamikaze into the fish net. Stuck, you pull them out as they struggle to free themselves. You complete the job at the beach. At least there's plenty for "kelaguen" and toasty fried fish for supper.

This form of fishing is now regulated to ensure we don't partake in the extinction of tasty juvenile creatures close to shore.

T.O.A.S.T.: Torpid Old-Age Senior Tales

I read one time that fart and scatological humor was the lowest form of comedy and humor. Don't you have to start someplace? Why not start with a fart? The following is true. Benjamin Franklin, who is known to have said, "Fart Freely" in his famous book, Poor Richard's Almanac, made it to the top of American currency, with his face on your \$100 bill. I think he founded the Department of Treasury as well as the American postal system.

Old-Age Flatulence: Blowin' in the Wind

"The answer my friend is blowin' in the wind."

—Bob Dylan

The trouble starts with your farts and where they go hence no need for an investigator to know who is the operant the pungent sulfuric odors are more than enough evidence though its common for the smell to frequently be a variant.

From baby stage toddler through middle age there is precedence of dealing with a greasy gassy meal and leftover internal remnants consumption of rich buttery pastries leaning toward decadence gluttony in front of me, obesity onset, and increasing corpulence.

Offentimes there are multiple efforts made to disguise flatulence to make it look and sound like no one around can tell at a glance by making a certain sound with your foot as you walk or dance and moving away quickly so no one can smell the difference.

So as through stinky gaseous old age you fragrantly advance learn some tricks to hide farts so no one looks at you askance.

Old-Age Flatulence: Double Troubles Too

(Hope this breath of not-so-fresh air gets a laugh or two from you)

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

Learning the essence of preservation is vital to ensuring there's fish when we next return for more.

Silence

At a grocery store, a friend remarked that things are a bit "silent on the islands. Not sure what to make of it other than Da Hill must be busy formulating a set of plans to move the local economy beyond stagnation. Or am I being optimistically presumptuous?

Puzzling, if not, troubling, the lack of investment resurgence that indicates eventual inability to pay for the cost of basic services NMI-wide. Investment has stagnated, meaning it has stood still, as we work with what's left of old money.

However troubling stagnation may be, I remain guardedly optimistic investment resurgence would move forward soon. This is the juncture where leadership issue comes into full view in the public domain for critical scrutiny. In other words, is there leadership sufficiently endowed with a sense of vision to move issues forward in timely fashion?

For now, troubling the eerie dead silence at dawn through dusk. EVERbody home?

Hope?

The silence that mutes the entire archipelago echoes loudly when we rest our heads on pillows after dusk. We could hear it at the depth of our half-paralyzed ear as we doze off into the night.

With a sense of humility, I'd bow my head and analyze unfolding events that signal dire need for focus and attention. We must part with the "everyday is a holiday" demeanor, if only to show we've grown up ready to handle stronger sense of responsibility.

LITERARY NOOK

By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Joey "Pepé Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and has been named a poet laureate of Tinian. He has taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.

The gas trouble is still there you may well need a double balance let it out and get quickly away before those nearby become petulant especially if its so bad someone faints and they call an ambulance or the continuous odors start to drive out upstairs apartment tenants.

Then there is the problem when there is absolutely no pretense and most horrific whiffs and sniffs begin to affect a romance you can't blame any others and no one comes to your defense one is fighting for the right of way and you can't take a chance.






So you let it go unannounced and with no warning in advance with a whoosh and a whoop out comes fresh flatulent fragrance and you do-si-do around some kind of shake a tail feather dance and chalk it up to another of example of nature's happenstance.

This double duty trouble needs a 'let us clear the air' sentence to be ended with rapid fire farts and a rat-a-tat reality remonstrance.

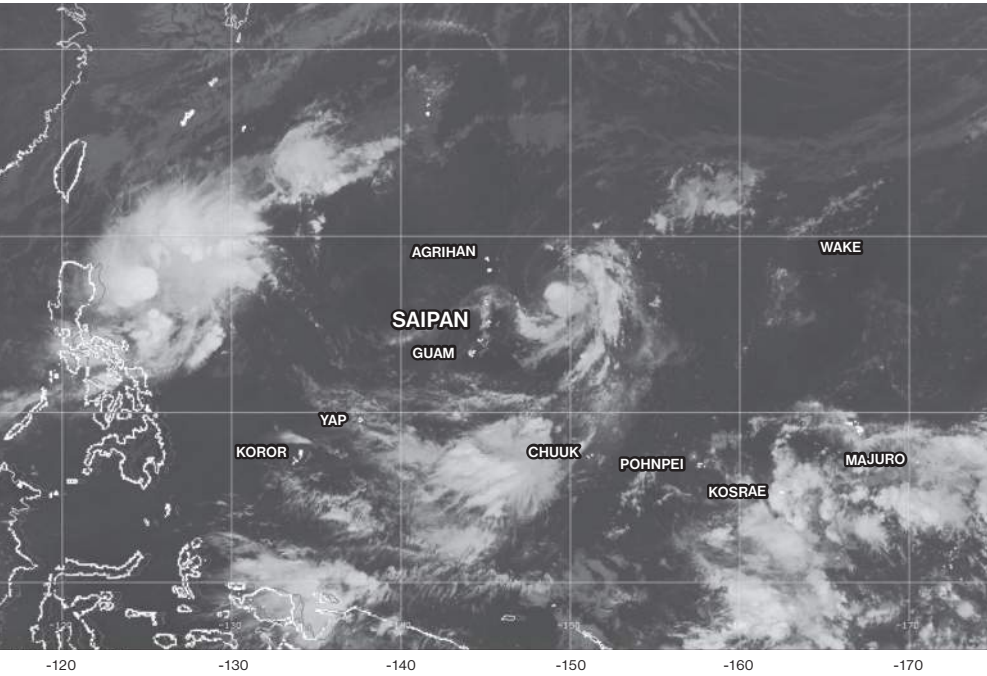
(Written on Sept. 14, 2019, on the author's 70th birthday)

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	77°	88°	77°	88°	76°	87°	77°	87°	77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Isolated showers and northeast winds are present across the Marianas. TS Fengshen is continuing west toward Pagan Island while another circulation close to Chuuk also moves westward.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	70° / 59°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 39°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	79° / 70°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°	
London	Showers	46° / 43°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	71° / 56°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	82° / 68°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	53° / 30°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	64° / 50°	
Paris	Showers	43° / 37°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 54°	
Rome	Rain	63° / 54°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	49° / 38°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	59° / 49°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	59° / 37°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	53° / 34°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:04 AM	HIGH TIDE	-0.36	
10:03 AM	LOW TIDE	1.74	
3:34 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.06	
8:24 PM	LOW TIDE	1.69	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:18 AM	5:44 PM
Sunday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Monday	6:19 AM	5:44 PM
Tuesday	6:20 AM	5:43 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	8:24 AM	8:00 PM
Saturday	-	9:20 AM	8:54 PM
Sunday	-	10:17 AM	9:52 PM
Monday	-	11:12 AM	10:51 PM
Tuesday	-	12:04 AM	11:51 PM

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 27, 2019									
DEPARTURES					ARRIVALS				
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)					GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN				
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily		UA174	7:30am	8:10am	Daily	
UA105	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4		UA104	4:50pm	5:30pm	2, 4	
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)					BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN				
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily		7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7	
					7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3	
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)					SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN				
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily		OZ6233	8:00am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6	
OZ626	2:10am	6:10am	1		OZ623	8:55am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7	
OZ626	2:50am	6:25am	3, 7		7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily	
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 4, 5, 6		OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7	
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily		TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily	
OZ6243	3:20pm	7:10pm	2, 4, 6		OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	
OZ624	3:50pm	7:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7		7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily	
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily						
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)					SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN				
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7		3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7	
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)					HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN				
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1		JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4	
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4		JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7	
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)					GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN				
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6		3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5	
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)					BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN				
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7		MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6	
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)					MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN		UA184/174	12:40am	8:07am+1	3, 6 via GUM	
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM		OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR		UA192/174	10:40pm	8:07am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	
					UA184/174	10:55pm	8:07am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	
					OZ704/6233	11:45pm	1:20pm+1	1, 3, 5 via ICN	
					OZ704/623	11:45pm	2:30pm+1	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)					HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN				
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN		OZ746/6233	12:30am	1:20pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN		OZ746/623	12:30am	2:30pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN	
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7		OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN	
OZ6243/9661	3:20pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN		UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7	
OZ624/9661	3:50pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN		UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6	
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>									
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA					1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily	
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily		1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily	
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily		1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily	
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily		1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO SAIPAN					1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily	
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily		1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily	
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily		1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily	
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily		1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily	
ROTA TO GUAM					TINIAN TO SAIPAN				
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily		2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily	
GUAM TO ROTA					2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily	
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily		2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily	
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily	
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily	
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily		2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily	
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily		2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily	
					2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily	
					2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily	
					2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily	
					2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily	

Business Expo 2019

Photos by MARC A. VENUS



A child is assisted by one of Laulau Bay Golf & Resort's staff while participating in the booth's mini-golf activity during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Saipan Chamber of Commerce executive director Maxine Laszlo listens as a member of Pacific Trading Co. participates in the Chamber's many activities last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Employees at the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc. booth pose for a picture during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



An overview of last Saturday's Business Expo at Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo joins RebelFi owner Nathan Roppul check out the I Love Saipan booth at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Employees at the TakeCare Insurance booth pose for a picture during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Participants join the many activities provided by the different booths during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.



Employees at the Marpac booth pose for a picture during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Business Expo last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Business



MARC A. VENUS

Alipay North America representative Michael Block presents to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce during its general membership meeting last week at the Hyatt Regency Ballroom. Draped over the podium is the Chamber's new logo.

By **MARC A. VENUS**
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce unveiled its newly refined logo and its new and improved website during its membership meeting last week at the Hyatt Regency Saipan ballroom. The main reason behind these changes is the Chamber's desire to highlight how it is more than a collection of businesses in the community.

"We are part of the community, and we know how we are the backbone of our economy," Chamber president Velma Palacios said. She emphasized

that the Chamber cares about the families on Saipan and the people who work and call Saipan home.

Palacios continued that the Chamber aims to maintain a sustainable local workforce through supporting small businesses and encouraging entrepreneurs. She noted that the Chamber also supports the students who are going to college and that they come back home and contribute to the CNMI economy.

The Chamber also notes of the importance of veterans and how businesses can support them. The Chamber emphasizes the importance of adding value to the businesses who

operate on Saipan and make sure that they have the resources they need to succeed.

"All in all, we care a great deal about businesses and our impact, and we wanted to ensure that our mission, our vision, and our brand all identify with what is most important to our members," Palacios said.

She noted that in line with reevaluating the Chamber's purpose, the board of directors created an ad hoc committee consisting of Chamber members Joe Guerrero, Shayne Villanueva, and Perry Inos Jr. to explore ideas for the Chamber's mission, vision, and new logo design.

The board then deliberated and announced the new brand for the Chamber with its new mission—"The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector."

Its new vision is ... "to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one."

While the Chamber's new tagline is, "Moving our community forward through enterprise."

Chamber executive director Maxine Laszlo told *Saipan Tribune* that the new logo incorporates the Chamber's new tagline. "We're looking forward to continuing to find what is best to serve our membership, and truly serve as the resource, advocate, and connector for all of our businesses," Laszlo said.

The Chamber's website has undergone numerous updates as the board decided to go for its new rebranding. Updates on website features like discussion forums between networking businesses, a page dedicated for businesses posting deals called "Hot Deals," posting job announcements, and adding events to the Chamber's community calendar, and mobile updates on-the-go were added to the chamber's website.

The chamber currently has 142 members ranging from sole-proprietors to large resort hotels, service companies, tour agencies, insurance firms to construction companies. The diversity of the Chamber's membership reflects the diversity of the people of the Commonwealth.



The Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Walmart hires off-duty officers ahead of El Paso reopening

EL PASO, Texas (AP)—Walmart has quietly hired off-duty officers at its stores in El Paso, Texas, where a gunman police say targeted Mexicans opened fire in a store in August and killed 22 people. Walmart plans Thursday to reopen the store where the attack happened and amid ongoing lawsuits over safety. Walmart didn't have a guard in the store the day of the mass shooting. The reopening will happen unceremoniously, Walmart spokeswoman Delia Garcia said, and will follow

a brief meeting with employees. She declined comment on security measures. Police say Patrick Crusius drove more than 10 hours from his grandparents' house where he lived in a Dallas suburb to carry out the attack. Crusius, 21, has pleaded not guilty. More than 3,000 people from largely Latino El Paso and neighboring Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, were at Walmart when the attack happened. "There was a time that Walmart hired off-duty officers and for some time prior (to) August 3rd that ceased," said El Paso police spokesman Enrique Carrillo, in an email. He declined to provide

more details.

Iconic Sky Bar candy, once thought gone, being made again

SUDBURY, Mass. (AP)—The Sky Bar, the multi-flavored chocolate bar divided into four sections, is back on the market after a yearlong hiatus. The Boston Globe reports that production of the confection has resumed at a suburban gourmet shop less than a year after the owner bought rights to the brand in an online auction. The Sky Bar made its debut in 1938 but was discontinued last year when the New England Confectionery Co., also

known as Necco, went out of business. Louise Mawhinney, owner of Duck Soup in Sudbury, bought the rights to the Sky Bar in January. The candy bar, divided into caramel, vanilla, peanut and fudge sections, is available in the store and online for \$1.98. After the holidays, Mawhinney plans to get a wholesale license and ramp up operations.

Nike cuts ties with Amazon, but shoes won't vanish from site

NEW YORK (AP)—Nike will stop selling its sneakers and athletic gear directly to Amazon, ending a two-year

relationship with the world's largest online retailer. The announcement was a setback for Amazon, which has been trying to lure big brands to its site. But shoppers may not notice a difference: Nike's goods will still be available on Amazon.com, sold by independent sellers that list their merchandise directly on Amazon's marketplace. Nike only sold Amazon a limited amount of styles, and usually not the latest sneakers. Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. declined to comment Wednesday. Nike may not need Amazon: The company said it wants to focus on selling its swoosh-branded gear on its

own site and apps, which has fueled a rise in sales. Selling sneakers directly to its customers gives Nike information on its shoppers that can help it design shoes in colors or sizes it knows they want. When Nike announced the pilot program with Amazon.com Inc. in 2017, it hoped that it would have more control over the brand. Amazon has acknowledged problematic sales of counterfeit goods on the site this year and introduced new tools stop them, including a way for brands to remove fake items from the site themselves instead of reporting them to Amazon and waiting for the company to respond.

Nation

Battle lines harden as Trump impeachment goes public

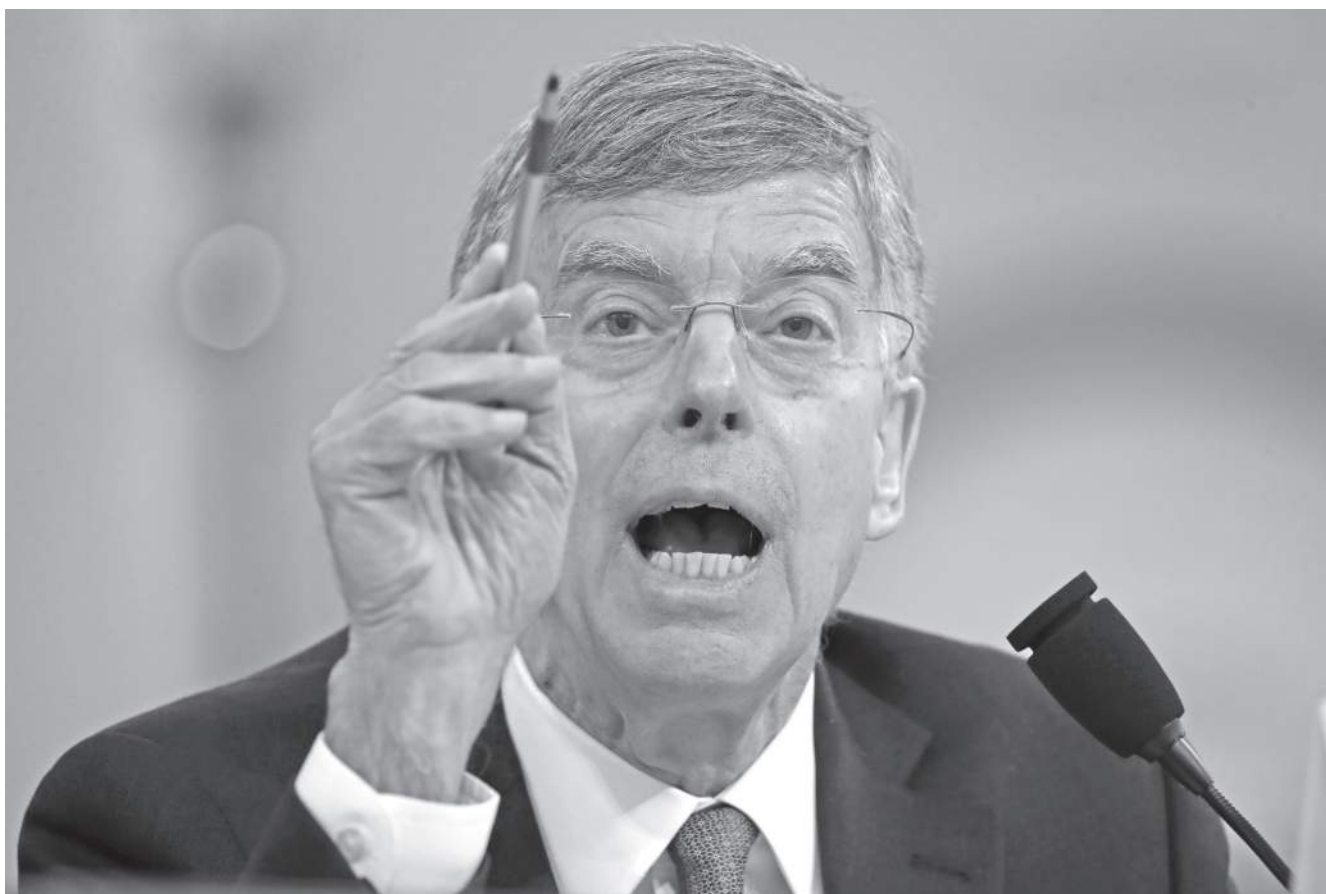
WASHINGTON (AP)—With historic impeachment hearings underway, Democrats and Republicans are hardening their arguments over the actions of President Donald Trump as they set out to win over a deeply polarized American public.

Democrats say Wednesday's extraordinary public session in the House revealed a striking account of Trump abusing his office by pressing the newly elected president of Ukraine for political investigations of rival Democrats, all while holding up needed military aid. "Bribery," they said, and "extortion."

Republicans counter that the hearing showed none of that. They say the two seasoned diplomats at the witness table had, at best, second-hand accounts of Trump's July 25 call that's central to the impeachment inquiry. There was no pressure on the young Ukraine leader, they argue, and eventually the aid flowed, though only after Congress intervened.

Day One of the rare public hearings in the House — part of only the fourth formal impeachment effort in U.S. history — set the contours for a once-in-a-generation political struggle. Images and audio from the hearing popping up on television, in earbuds and on the partisan silos of social media, providing the first close-up look at the investigation.

"The president sought to



Top U.S. diplomat in Ukraine William Taylor testifies before the House Intelligence Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, during the first public impeachment hearing of President Donald Trump's efforts to tie U.S. aid for Ukraine to investigations of his political opponents

advance his political and personal interests at the expense of U.S. national security," said Rep. Adam Schiff of California, the Democratic chairman of the House Intelligence Committee leading the probe.

"Is this now going to be the new normal?" Schiff asked.

Hosting the president of Turkey at the White House, Trump insisted he was too busy to watch the hearings

being broadcast live across the country and the world. He denied a fresh detail from one of the witnesses about a phone call in which he was overheard asking about "the investigations."

"First I've heard of it," Trump told reporters during a news conference.

A different conversation sparked the impeachment investigation, Trump's July 25 phone call with Ukraine Presi-

dent Volodymyr Zelenskyy, heard by several government officials and detailed in a partial transcript released to the public weeks ago. The core moment came when Trump asked the newly elected leader for "a favor."

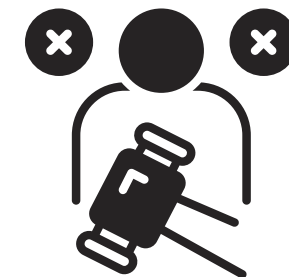
House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said Wednesday that the Democrats' first witness "wasn't on the phone call, never met with the president, never talked to the chief of staff. And he's their star witness?"

Trump wanted Ukraine's government to investigate Democrats' activities in the 2016 election and his potential

2020 rival, Joe Biden — all while the administration was withholding military aid for the Eastern European ally as it confronted an aggressive neighbor, Russia.

All day, the two diplomats delivered a dramatic, though complicated, account. They testified about how an ambassador was fired, the new Ukraine government was confused and they discovered an "irregular channel" — a shadow U.S. foreign policy orchestrated by the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani, that raised alarms in diplomatic and national security circles.

What is impeachment?



- The U.S. Constitution states a president or federal official "shall be removed from office on impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes or misdemeanors."

- The process is started by the House of Representatives, and needs a majority to pass.

- In the Senate, a two-thirds vote is necessary for removal.

Reason for impeachment

- Over allegations that the president pressured the President of Ukraine for damaging information about a political opponent while holding out the prospect of U.S. military aid.

Presidents impeached

- Andrew Johnson, the 17th president, for Violating the Tenure of Office Act. Was acquitted on May 26, 1868.

- Bill Clinton, the 42nd president, for perjury and obstruction of justice. Acquitted on Feb. 12, 1999.

Impeachment not just for presidents

- Since 1797 the House of Representatives has impeached 16 federal officials. These include two presidents.

- Of those, the Senate has convicted and removed seven, all of them judges. Not included in this list are the office holders who have resigned rather than face impeachment.

Source: infoplease.com, AP, BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

US superbug infections rising, but deaths are falling

NEW YORK (AP)—Drug-resistant "superbug" infections have been called a developing nightmare that could set medicine back a century, making conquered germs once again untreatable.

So there's some surprising news in a report released Wednesday: U.S. superbug deaths appear to be going down.

About 36,000 Americans died from drug-resistant infections in 2017, down 18% from an estimated 44,000 in 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated. The decline is mainly attributed to an intense effort in hospitals to control the spread of particularly dangerous infections.

"We are pushing back in a battle we were losing," said Michael Kirsch, a pharmacist at AdventHealth Tampa, a Florida hospital that has seen lower superbug infection

rates. "I would not by any means declare success."

Indeed, though deaths are going down, nonfatal infections grew nationally from 2.6 million in 2013 to 2.8 million in 2017. Some worrisome new germs are emerging. And superbugs are appearing much more often outside of hospitals, the report says.

For example, urinary tract infections have been easily treated in doctor's offices with common antibiotics. But it's increasingly common to see young healthy women with such infections forced into the hospital after initial treatments don't work, said Dr. Bradley Frazee, a California emergency room doctor.

"We never really worried about this kind of antibiotic resistance in the past," said Frazee, who last year co-authored a journal article documenting more than 1,000

drug-resistant urinary tract infections in one year at Highland Hospital in Oakland.

Antibiotics first became widely available in the 1940s, and today dozens are used to kill or suppress the bacteria behind illnesses ranging from strep throat to the plague. The drugs are considered among medicine's greatest advances, and have saved countless lives.

But as decades passed, some antibiotics stopped working. Experts say their overuse and misuse have helped make them less effective.

The new report marks only the second time the CDC has tried to measure the numbers of U.S. illnesses and deaths attributed to drug-resistant germs. The first was released six years ago. This time, the agency relied on new data and it recalculated the 2013 numbers, resulting in larger baseline estimates.

US proposes tougher rules on work permits for asylum-seekers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has proposed making it tougher for asylum-seekers to obtain permission to work in the United States while their cases are pending, a move that immigrant advocates say would unfairly punish those who need humanitarian protection the most.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services said Wednesday a proposed rule would double the time asylum-seekers must wait for a work permit to a year and bar those who crossed a border illegally from applying for work permits at all.

The new rule aims to discourage immigrants who don't qualify for asylum from seeking it to "restore integrity to

the asylum system and lessen the incentive to file an asylum application for the primary purpose of obtaining work authorization," Ken Cuccinelli, the agency's acting director, said in a statement.

The proposal is the latest in a series of measures by the Trump administration aimed at deterring immigrants from seeking asylum along the U.S.-Mexico border and in limiting immigration to the United States.

There are hundreds of thousands of asylum applications pending in U.S. government offices and immigration courts. Some were filed by immigrants who were already in the country and others by people arriving in airports, at

ports of entry, or stopped on the U.S.-Mexico border.

Currently, asylum-seekers can obtain permission to work in the United States once their cases have been pending for six months.

Immigrant advocates decried the proposed rule and said it would fall hardest on the poorest and most vulnerable immigrants, who are often those who flee their homes at a moment's notice in search of safety.

"Those with strongest claims are the ones least likely to be able to support themselves because they had to leave everything behind," said Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, policy counsel at the American Immigration Council.

Asia

N. Korea issues warning over US-South Korea drills

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea's supreme decision-making body lashed out Wednesday at planned U.S.-South Korean military drills and warned that the United States will face a greater threat and harsh suffering if it ignores North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline to salvage nuclear talks.

In a statement carried by state media, an unidentified spokesman for the North's State Affairs Commission said the drills would violate agreements between Kim and President Donald Trump on improving bilateral relations and compel North Korea to raise its war readiness.

Kim is chairman of the commission, which he established in 2016 following years of efforts to consolidate his power and centralize governance.

The statement is North Korea's latest expression of displeasure over the military drills and slow pace of nuclear negotiations with Washington. The talks have stalled over disagreements on disarmament steps and the removal of sanctions imposed on the North.

North Korea has also ramped up its missile tests in recent months and experts say it is likely to continue weapons displays to pressure Washington as Kim's deadline nears for the Trump administration to offer mutually acceptable



AP
Protesters stage a rally to oppose a planned visit by U.S. Secretary for Defense Mark Esper in front of the Defense Ministry Seoul, South Korea, Thursday, Nov. 14, 2019.

terms for a deal.

Cheong Seong-chang, a North Korea expert at South Korea's private Sejong Institute, said the North's decision to release a statement through its highest government institution indicates that it could be preparing more provocative military demonstrations, such as ballistic tests from a new launch-capable submarine it has been developing.

The North Korean spokesman said annual U.S.-South Korea military drills are continuing to cause a "vicious

cycle" in relations between the U.S. and North Korea.

"The U.S. had better behave itself with prudence at a sensitive time when the situation on the Korean Peninsula could go back to the starting point due to the joint military drills," the statement said.

The United States "will face greater threat and be forced to admit its failure, being put into trouble before long if it doesn't do anything to change the trend of the present situation," it said.

The spokesman said North

Korea has treated the United States sincerely as a dialogue partner and "halted different actions that the U.S. was concerned about," apparently referring its suspension of nuclear and long-range missile tests, which allowed Trump to claim a foreign policy win.

The spokesman said North Korea feels betrayed by what it sees as a lack of corresponding measures by the United States.

"We, without being given anything, gave things the U.S. president can brag about but the U.S. side has not yet taken

any corresponding step," the statement said. "Now, betrayal is only what we feel from the U.S. side."

Last week, senior North Korean diplomat Kwon Jong Gun said a joint aerial exercise planned by the U.S. and South Korea in coming weeks amounted to "throwing a wet blanket over the spark" of nuclear negotiations that are "on the verge of extinction." Kwon said North Korea's patience was nearing its limit and that it will "never remain an onlooker" to "reckless military moves."

Since the start of the nuclear talks last year, the United States and South Korea have canceled or scaled back their regular military drills to create space for diplomacy. But North Korea says the smaller drills are still a rehearsal for an invasion and has reacted strongly to the exercises during stalemates in the negotiations.

Chinese, other students flee Hong Kong as violence worsens

HONG KONG (AP)—University students from mainland China and Taiwan are fleeing Hong Kong, while those from three Scandinavian countries have been moved or urged to leave as college campuses become the latest battleground in the city's 5-month-long anti-government unrest.

Marine police used a boat Wednesday to help a group of mainland students leave the Chinese University of Hong Kong, which remained barricaded by demonstrators after violent clashes with police on Tuesday.

Authorities announced that primary and secondary school classes would be suspended Thursday as clashes turn increasingly violent.

The protests have taken on a strong anti-China bent, with radical demonstrators trashing branches of mainland banks, China's official Xinhua News Agency and restaurant chains whose owners support the Beijing government.

Hong Kong is part of China but has its own legal system and greater freedoms than

the mainland. The protesters say those freedoms are under threat from a city government that is beholden to Beijing. China says the protesters are rioters who want to break away from Chinese rule.

For the third day in a row, protesters widely disrupted train service, blocked streets and rallied in the central business district. They hunkered down for possible clashes with police at university campuses.

The Technical University of Denmark urged 36 students in Hong Kong to return home, saying "some of our students have been forced to move from their dormitories because they were put on fire." Sweden's Royal Institute of Technology also recommended that its 26 students in the city leave.

Norwegian student Elina Neverdal Hjoennevaag told her country's broadcaster NRK that students are being sent to a hotel, adding, "I don't really know what is happening. I must pack."

Mainland students have said in online posts that they are being targeted by protest-

ers who have broken into their dormitories, spray-painted insults on walls and banged on their doors, the Beijing Evening News reported.

Many are taking advantage of a program that offers a week of free accommodation in one of a dozen hotels and hostels in the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen, Chinese media reported.

The service was established in 2013 for recent graduates looking for jobs in the tech hub. Taiwan arranged flight tickets for 126 of its students at Chinese University to fly home Wednesday night, public broadcaster RTHK reported.

Many subway and rail stations were closed after protesters threw debris on tracks and vandalized train cars. University classes remained suspended.

Hong Kong Baptist University told students that instruction and exams would be conducted online for the two remaining weeks of the semester, with arrangements for students who have returned to the mainland to join in.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korean ex-justice minister summoned in financial probe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korean prosecutors on Thursday summoned the country's former justice minister as they expand an investigation into corruption allegations surrounding his family that sparked huge protests. Cho Kuk's questioning at the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office came weeks after the arrests of his wife, brother and another relative over their suspected involvement in financial crimes and faking credentials to help get Cho's daughter into medical school and obtain scholarships. Cho, a reformist law professor and confidant of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, resigned as minister last month, citing the burden of the investigation into his family. He has denied legal wrongdoing while apologizing over the perks his daughter is alleged to have received. "I will soon be investigated by prosecutors. Everything about me will come under suspicion and I might get into trouble for things that I didn't know about or don't remember," Cho wrote on Facebook on Monday. "I feel miserable, but I will invest every effort to establish the truth and restore my honor."

Prince Charles discusses climate change with Indian experts

NEW DELHI (AP)—Britain's Prince Charles met with Indian experts on Wednesday during a visit to the country focusing on global challenges such as climate change and business sustainability. The Prince of Wales discussed how to strengthen disaster resilience and tackle the effects of climate change at the Indian Meteorological Department in New Delhi. He arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday with a thick gray haze cloud-

ing the sky. The air quality index exceeded 450, considered "severe" and nine times the recommended maximum, according to the state-run Central Pollution Control Board. A Supreme Court-appointed panel ordered the closure of schools in the Indian capital region on Thursday and Friday. Prince Charles had a short ride in an e-rickshaw driven by a woman. Air pollution in northern India peaks in the winter due to smoke from agricultural fires and fireworks during a major Hindu festival.

Toll rises in Australian wildfires with more danger ahead

SYDNEY (AP)—The death toll for wildfires raging across Australia's most populous state has risen to four as authorities warned Thursday of worsening weather conditions to come. A body was found late Wednesday in a scorched forest near the town of Kempsey in northeast New South Wales, police said. He is suspected to be a 58-year-old man who lived in a nearby shed and had not been seen since Friday when ferocious wildfires across New South Wales killed three other people and destroyed at least 150 homes. About 60 fires were burning around New South Wales on Thursday morning, with 27 uncontained while being battled by more than 1,000 firefighters, the Rural Fire Service said. "We had a better day yesterday, only one fire got to emergency warning, but even in these pretty benign conditions we're seeing quite a lot of aggressive fire behavior simply because it's so dry," Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers told the Seven Network television. "Conditions starting to warm up tomorrow, into the weekend and then heating up early next week, a return to more gusty conditions. We're in for the long haul," he added.

World

Venice 'on its knees' after second-worst flood ever recorded

VENICE, Italy (AP)—The worst flooding in Venice in more than 50 years prompted calls Wednesday to better protect the historic city from rising sea levels as officials calculated hundreds of millions of euros in damage.

The water reached 1.87 meters (6.14 feet) above average sea level Tuesday, the second-highest level ever recorded in the city and just 7 centimeters (2½ inches) lower than the historic 1966 flood. Another wave of exceptionally high water followed Wednesday.

"Venice is on its knees," Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said on Twitter. "St. Mark's Basilica has sustained serious damage, like the entire city and its islands."

One death was blamed on the flooding, on the barrier island of Pellestrina. A man in his 70s was apparently electrocuted when he tried to start

a pump in his dwelling, said Danny Carrella, an official on the island of 3,500 inhabitants.

In Venice, the crypt beneath St. Mark's Basilica was inundated for only the second time in its history. Damage was also reported at the Ca' Pesaro modern art gallery, where a short circuit set off a fire, and at La Fenice theater, where authorities turned off electricity as a precaution after the control room was flooded.

Italy's culture minister, Dario Franceschini, said no damage had been reported to art collections in museums throughout the city. Many sites remained closed to tourists, and La Fenice canceled concerts Wednesday and Thursday evening.

Tourists floated suitcases through St. Mark's Square, where officials removed walkways to prevent them from

drifting away. Wooden boards that shop and hotel owners have placed on doors in previous floods couldn't hold back the water.

The water was so high that nothing less than thigh-high boots afforded protection, and one man was even filmed swimming bare-chested in St. Mark's Square during what appeared to be the height of the flood.

"I have often seen St. Mark's Square covered with water," Venice's patriarch,

Monsignor Francesco Moraglia, told reporters. "Yesterday there were waves that seemed to be the seashore."

Brugnaro said damage would reach hundreds of millions of euros. He called on Rome to declare a state of emergency.

"We are not just talking about calculating the damages, but of the very future of the city," Brugnaro told reporters. "Because the population drain also is a result of this."

He described "untold dam-

ages, to houses, shops, activities, not to mention monuments and works of art. We risked our lives as well."

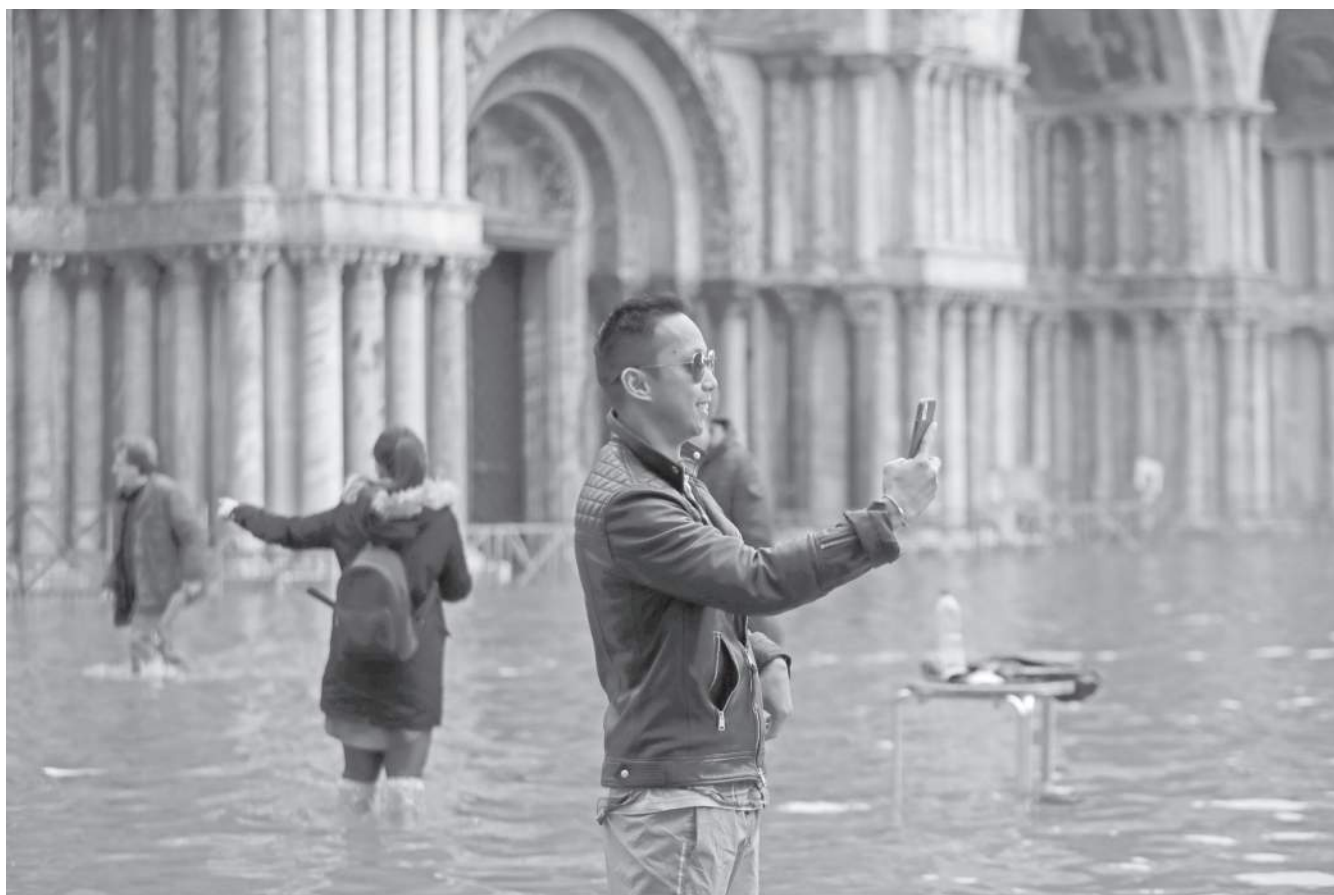
The flooding was caused by southerly winds that pushed a high tide, exacerbated a full moon, into the city.

Rising sea levels because of climate change coupled with Venice's well-documented sinking make the city built amid a system of canals particularly vulnerable. The sea level in Venice is 10 centime-

ters (4 inches) higher than it was 50 years ago, according to the city's tide office.

Damage included five ferries that serve as water buses, a critical means of transportation. Photos on social media showed taxi boats and gondolas grounded on walkways flanking canals.

Brugnaro blamed climate change for the "dramatic situation" and called for a speedy completion of a long-delayed project to construct offshore barriers.



Tourists take pictures in a flooded St. Mark's Square, in Venice, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019.

AP

Clashes rock Bolivia as new interim leader challenged

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP)—Renewed clashes rocked Bolivia's capital Wednesday as the woman who claimed the presidency, a second-tier lawmaker thrust into the post because of a power vacuum, faced challenges to her leadership from supporters of the ousted Evo Morales.

A day after Jeanine Añez assumed power, violent clashes broke out between rock-throwing Morales' backers and police in riot gear, who fired volleys of tear gas to disperse the large crowd of protesters as fighter jets flew low overhead in a show of force.

Opposition was also building in Congress, where lawmakers loyal to Morales were mounting a challenge to Añez's legitimacy by trying to hold new sessions that would undermine her claim to the presidency. The sessions—dismissed as invalid by Añez's faction—added to the political uncertainty following the resignation of Morales, the nation's first indigenous leader, after nearly 14 years in power.

In the streets, angry demonstrators tore off corrugated sheets of metal and wooden planks from construction sites to use as weapons, and some set off sticks of dynamite. Many along flooded the streets of the capital and its sister city of El Alto, a Morales stronghold, waving the multicolored indigenous flag and chanting, "Now, civil war!"

"We don't want any dicta-

tors. This lady has stepped on us—that's why we're so mad," said Paulina Luchampe. "We're going to fight with our brothers and sisters until Evo Morales is back. We ask for his return. He needs to put the house in order."

The 60-year-old Morales, who arrived in Mexico on Tuesday under a grant of asylum, has vowed to remain active in politics and said he would be willing to go back home. "If the people ask me, we are willing to return," he said at news conference Wednesday in Mexico City.

According to the constitution, an interim president has 90 days to organize an election, and the disputed accession of Añez, who until Tuesday was second vice president of the Senate, was an example of the long list of obstacles she faces. Morales' backers, who hold a two-thirds majority in Congress, boycotted the session she called Tuesday night to formalize her claim to the presidency, preventing a quorum.

She claimed power anyway, saying the constitution did not specifically require congressional approval. "My commitment is to return democracy and tranquility to the country," she said. "They can never again steal our vote."

Bolivia's top constitutional court issued a statement late Tuesday laying out the legal justification for Añez taking the presidency—without mentioning her by name.

Saudi Arabia, Yemen's Houthi rebels in indirect peace talks

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—Saudi Arabia and Yemen's Iran-backed rebels are holding indirect, behind-the-scenes talks to end the devastating five-year war in Yemen, officials from both sides have told The Associated Press.

The negotiations are taking place with Oman, a Gulf Arab country that borders both Yemen and Saudi Arabia, as mediator. Oman has positioned itself as a quiet mediator in the past and in a possible sign the back-channel talks could be stepping up, Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman arrived in Muscat on Monday.

The two sides have communicated via video conference over the past two months, according to Gamal Amer, a negotiator for the Yemeni rebels known as Houthis. They have also talked through European intermediaries, according to three Houthi officials.

Yemen remains a divided country. The Iran-backed Houthis have controlled the

capital, Sanaa, and much of the north since 2014. The Saudi-led military coalition, which entered the war in 2015, is fighting on behalf of Yemeni President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his internationally recognized government.

The Oman-mediated talks began in September, after a Houthi-claimed drone struck a key crude processing plant in Saudi Arabia—the world's largest—and dramatically cut into global oil supplies. The United States blamed Iran, which denied involvement.

The attack laid bare the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia's oil installations and appears to have propelled Riyadh toward negotiating an end to the increasingly costly war. The kingdom has also faced a growing backlash against its role in the Yemen war, including from the U.S. Congress.

The current talks focus on interim goals, such as re-opening Yemen's main international airport in Sanaa, shut down by the Saudi-led coalition in

2016. Also under discussion is a buffer zone along the Yemen-Saudi border in areas under Houthi control.

Abu Bakr al-Qirbi, a former Yemeni foreign minister, told the AP from Oman that the Saudis' main concerns include dismantling the Houthis' ballistic and drone capabilities and the kingdom's border security.

The Saudis are looking for assurances the Houthis will distance themselves from Shiite power Iran, the Sunni kingdom's archrival. Riyadh has long feared the Houthis could establish an Iranian presence along the Saudi-Yemen border.

These talks could pave the way for more high-profile negotiations early next year, said one of the Houthi officials.

All officials, with the exception of Amer and al-Qirbi, spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters on backchannel negotiations.

The recent rapprochement—if materialized—could put an end to a war that has

killed over 100,000 people, destroyed Yemen's infrastructure, displaced millions, and pushed the country's 30 million people into one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. However, it remains to be seen how future peace talks could shape a post-war Yemen, deeply fragmented along many fault lines during the conflict.

Last week, a senior Saudi official told a group of reporters in Washington that, "there is a sense that we need to move to resolution of this conflict." He said the ongoing talks are also focusing on prisoner exchanges between the warring sides.

There are signs all involved in the fighting are seeking a way out. The United Arab Emirates, a member of the Saudi-led coalition, has tried to extricate itself from the conflict and last month said it was pulling out of Yemen, after spending years financing and training militias and separatist political factions in southern Yemen.

Focus

AP
Japanese Emperor Naruhito, left, and Empress Masako, right, wave during the royal motorcade in Tokyo, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019.

Japan emperor's harvest rite is his 1st communion with gods

BY MARI YAMAGUCHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TOKYO (AP)—Japanese Emperor Naruhito will perform a secretive and controversial ritual Thursday, a once-in-a-reign event to give thanks for good harvests, pray for the peace and safety of the nation and play host to his family's ancestral gods.

Or at least that's what experts and officials say.

The Daijosai, or great thanksgiving festival, is the most important succession ritual an emperor performs. But it is closed to the public, even as taxpayer money funds it.

It has drawn criticism as a throwback to Japan's authoritarian past and as a colossal waste of money, and provoked speculation the emperor is spending the night on a bed with a goddess.

Here's a look at the significance of the ritual and what people are saying about it:

FIRST COMMUNION WITH GODS

Daijosai marks the emperor's first communion with the Sun Goddess Amaterasu, the monarchy's mythological ancestor, and with other gods of Shinto, the religion of the imperial family. Harvest rituals originated in Japan's ancient rice

growing culture from around the 7th century, historians say.

The two-part ritual, each one lasting a few hours, begins Thursday evening. Naruhito, after purifying himself and donning a white robe, will enter the Yukiden, one of two main halls at a newly prepared, and very expensive, shrine complex inside his palace. Only he can enter the innermost sanctum to present harvested rice, sake, vegetables, seafood and local produce from around the country to the goddess and gods.

Naruhito will offer arcane prayers for peace and bountiful harvests, then partake of the offerings in a symbolic communion. After a short break, he will perform the other ritual at another main hall, the Sukiden.

ONE NIGHT, \$18 MILLION SHRINE

The venue, Daijokyu, is a one-off shrine complex of about 30 structures in various sizes, including the two main halls, all of which will be demolished afterward. The shrine complex alone costs about 2 billion yen (\$18 million), and the whole ritual will total 2.9 billion yen (\$27 million).

It's all funded by the government.

The ritual shrank when Ja-



AP
Japanese well-wishers hold Japanese national flag at the Imperial Palace before the royal parade of Japanese Emperor Naruhito and Empress Masako in Tokyo, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2019.

pan was ruled by warlords and the monarchy had little money and power. There was a 200-year hiatus before it was restored during the Tokugawa shogunate, which ruled from the 17th to the 19th century.

The ritual and the shrine were expanded when the pre-World War II government deified the emperor and used his status to drive Japanese aggression. The event has not been scaled down even after the emperor became a mere symbol, with no political power, under the postwar constitution, and there's been little public debate about the use of taxpayer money for the highly religious and secretive event.

Keiko Hongo, a Univer-

sity of Tokyo historian who was invited to speak before a government committee on the ritual, said officials wanted to cut costs of other events but not the Daijosai.

WHAT'S THE BED FOR?

There's speculation about many aspects of the ritual, but especially about the presence of a bed in the main hall, and what it might be used for.

Some experts believe the emperor uses it to sleep with the sun goddess to gain divinity. Others say it's for the goddess to rest and that it's not even touched by the emperor.

"The so-called bed, as we understand it, is a sacred seat for the imperial ancestor to

rest," then-Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said before the Daijosai in 1990 was performed by former Emperor Akihito, the current emperor's father.

Officials have denied that the emperor uses the bed to gain divinity.

RELIGION AND STATE

The government's funding of the highly religious rite remains contentious.

A group of more than 200 people filed a lawsuit against the government last year, saying the ritual violates the constitutional separation of state and religion. The wartime government turned Shinto into a fascist ideology to promote its colonial aggression.

Abe's government says even though the rite is too religious to be considered an official duty of the emperor, it is an "extremely important" succession ritual for the country's hereditary monarchy written in the constitution and therefore it serves the public interest and deserves state funding. The cost is paid in the name of "palace expenses," which ordinarily cover maintenance and ceremonial spending by the palace, following a precedent set by the government at the time of the earlier event.

"There seems to be a politi-

cal intention to resist (calls to stop funding the ritual) because of a sense of nostalgia for the (prewar) era," Takeshi Hara, a monarchy expert at the Open University of Japan, told a TBS radio talk show this week.

Abe's government wants the emperor to be a more authoritative figure, as he was before the end of World War II.

IMPERIAL CRITICISM

Naruhito's younger brother, Crown Prince Akishino, says he is against using public money for the ritual and that it's questionable under a constitution that separates religion and state.

"It's a royal family event, and it is highly religious," Akishino said last year. The palace budget for the Imperial family's private activities, including religious ones, was about one-seventh of the amount needed for the event. "I think the Daijosai should be held ... by making it an affordable ceremony."

His view was quickly dismissed by the government and conservatives, but widely welcomed by some palace watchers and legal experts. They say it's doable because the emperor already performs a regular annual harvest ritual in November at the palace's existing shrines.

Off The Wall

Greece: New bid to understand prehistoric engineering feat

By NICHOLAS PAPHITIS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—New excavations at an unusual prehistoric fortress northwest of Athens could hold the key to understanding one of ancient Greece's most impressive engineering feats, which converted a lake into rich farmland 3,300 years ago.

The acropolis of Glas, with its three-kilometer (1.9-mile) fortification walls, is the biggest of its era in Greece. It dates to the same time as the nearby land reclamation works and was an integral part of the overall project.

But both were abandoned only a few decades later, possibly due to a changing climate, and never re-used.

According to Greece's Culture Ministry, the results of the past two years' work at Glas, a low, flat hill in the corner of a large plain some 115 kilometers (70 miles) from Athens, have been "particularly encouraging."

Finds included a precisely designed six-building complex that looks as if it has marched straight off a developer's blueprint. That's unlike the looser sprawl seen in the famous contemporary citadels of Mycenae and Tiryns, each a fraction of Glas' size but much greater in importance and power.

The Mycenaean civilization dominated much of Greece



In this undated photo provide by the Greek Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2019, a copper double-headed axe found buried in the Mycenaean citadel of Glas in Greece is seen.

AP



In this undated photo provide by the Greek Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2019, the outlines of recently discovered buildings on the Mycenaean citadel of Glas in Greece are seen from the air.

AP

from around 1600-1100 B.C. and may have provided material for Homer's epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, as well as later Greek legends. It functioned through a series of regional administrative centers, usually with a palace surrounded by workshops and storerooms.

Lead excavator Elena Kountouri told The Associated Press Thursday that some recently discovered buildings at Glas appear to have been built for storage, "possibly on a household level," while others seem to have been work-

shops or their storage areas.

Each of the six 2,600-square-foot buildings has precisely the same dimensions, is equidistant and broken up into three equal sections.

"They look as if they would have housed a large number of people, but why and to what purpose we can't say yet," Kountouri said.

For most of its history the surrounding swampy plain was covered by Lake Copais, and was only fully drained in 1931 following a 50-year effort. But over a brief period in the 13th century B.C., lo-

cal Mycenaean rulers invested in a massive engineering project that changed the course of one river and contained another with huge dikes, creating thousands of acres to grow food and boosting the local economy.

Mysteriously, no more than 70-80 years later, Glas and its waterworks were abandoned, apparently without suffering enemy attack, and the surrounding fields gradually reverted to wetlands. The hill was never resettled.

"(The inhabitants) took all their belongings and left, and

In this undated photo provide by the Greek Culture Ministry on Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2019, a smashed pottery water jar found in the Mycenaean citadel of Glas in Greece is seen.

AP

the same happened in two other much smaller fortified settlements nearby," Kountouri said. "This could be connected with a period of long drought, maybe they couldn't grow their crops, were left with no food and departed."

Even the citadel's name was

forgotten. Glas, a name given to it a few centuries ago, is probably linked to an Albanian word for a fortified position.

A series of previous excavations over the past century on the 50-acre acropolis had uncovered scattered buildings, including a large L-shaped structure that could have been the administrative center. The 2018-2022 project undertaken by the Archaeological Society at Athens has established that the citadel's built-up area was larger than initially thought.

"It didn't seem very reasonable to build all these fortifications and then just inhabit a small part of the acropolis," Kountouri said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Georgia town bets on giant bushy chicken to attract tourists

FITZGERALD, Ga. (AP)—Why did the tourists cross the road? One south Georgia town hopes it will be to see a giant bushy chicken statue. Fitzgerald Mayor Jim Puckett tells local news outlets that the town is building the world's largest chicken topiary, a 62-foot (19-meter) steel-framed chicken with plants growing on it. Wild Burmese chickens have long roamed Fitzgerald. Puckett aims to leverage that reputation to draw tourists. He says: "They want to see chickens, so we're going to show them a chicken." The city is spending \$150,000 on the topiary, designed to top the 56-foot (17-meter) tall steel "Big Chicken" at a Kentucky Fried Chicken in Marietta. Puckett says the Fitzgerald topiary could even include an apartment for overnight rentals and an observation deck. It should be ready by year's end.

That bites! Snake tries to eat dead snake as wasp attacks

GAINESVILLE, Fla.

(AP)—Sometimes the circle of life stings. A coral snake found that out the hard way and a Florida woman caught it all on camera. Evangeline Cummings posted a [video](#) on Twitter of what appears to be a wasp stinging a coral snake that was dangling from a branch attempting to eat a dead snake. News outlets report Cummings was in her Gainesville backyard when she noticed the coral snake attempting to eat its meal. In the video, a wasp appears and starts circling the snake. When the wasp lands on the snake, it starts thrashing and swinging attempting to get rid of the wasp. Cummings tweeted the video and said she needed "support to process" what was happening. The coral snake seems like it needs some support too.

Illegal BASE jumper calls police after cell tower mishap

MENOMONIE, Wis. (AP)—A BASE jumper who jumped illegally from a northwestern Wisconsin cellphone tower ended up calling the po-

lice on himself after his parachute became caught on a guy wire, leaving him dangling perilously 50 feet (15 meters) from the ground. Police say the 20-year-old man jumped from the 300-foot (90-meter) Charter Communications tower in Menomonie on Thursday morning. After his rescue at around 9:30 a.m., the man was treated at Mayo Clinic Health System and arrested for criminal trespass. BASE jumping stands for building, antenna, span and earth—the four common objects from which BASE jumpers launch their descent. Menomonie is 70 miles (110 kilometers) east of Minneapolis.

Wyoming man grows 1,491-pound pumpkin, breaks state record

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP)—Wyoming officials say a Cheyenne man has grown a pumpkin that weighs in at 1,491 pounds (676 kilograms), a new state record. The Wyoming Tribune Eagle reported Thursday that Andy Corbin grew the gourd in his backyard. For perspective, sci-

entists say newborn elephants weigh about 200 pounds (91 kilograms) on average. Corbin says the pumpkins he grows at his east Cheyenne home require a handmade tripod to move them. He says his pumpkins require yearlong maintenance and can gain dozens of pounds a day during growing season. Corbin says he hopes to grow three pumpkins weighing more than 4,000 pounds (1,800 kilograms) combined.

Hawaii man proposes to girlfriend while surfing

HONOLULU (AP)—A Hawaii man was surfing with his girlfriend when—instead of hanging 10—he knelt down on one knee on his board and proposed. Hawaii News Now reported that Lauren Oiye said yes just before Chris Garth dropped the ring in the ocean. Multiple photographers nearby captured the Sunday moment. Luckily, he had a spare. Garth said he knew it could go wrong, so he used a stand-in while they were out in the water. The real ring was on shore

at Queen's Beach in Waikiki, where the two met years before. Details about the rings were not released.

Michigan hunters use branch saw to free entangled bucks

BOWNE TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Quick-thinking hunters in central Michigan have rescued two deer who literally became locked in battle. WOOD-TV reports that insurance agent Mark Johnson spotted the rutting bucks in a field with their antlers entangled. He figured the eight-point bucks would die from exhaustion or starvation if they stayed stuck. Video of Wednesday's rescue on WOOD-TV's website shows Johnson's friend, Brad Lyons, eventually deploying a specialized branch saw to cut part of an antler. That enabled the bucks to pull away and run off. The rescue came a week before firearms deer season. Johnson, Lyons and another acquaintance who showed up to help are all hunters and in other circumstances the bucks would have been prized tro-

Man receives response to message in bottle 9 years later

ROCKPORT, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts college student has received a response to a message he threw into the ocean when he was 10 years old. Suffolk University sophomore Max Vredenburg says he put the letter into a glass wine bottle that he threw into the water at Long Beach in Rockport in August 2010. Vredenburg's father texted him Friday to say that he had received a letter from someone named "G. Dubois" who found the bottle on a beach in Southern France on Oct. 10. In Vredenburg's original letter he listed some of his favorite things including apples, the beach and outer space. He also asked that the letter's recipient "please write back." The 19-year-old Vredenburg posted photos of the letters to his Twitter account Friday.

Science & Technology

Facebook says it removed 3.2B fake accounts in 6 months

Facebook says it removed 3.2 billion fake accounts from its service from April to September, up slightly from 3 billion in the previous six months.

Nearly all of the bogus accounts were caught before they had a chance to become “active” users of the social network, so they are not counted in the user figures the company reports regularly. Facebook estimates that about 5% of its

2.45 billion user accounts are fake.

The company said in a report Wednesday that it also removed 18.5 million instances of child nudity and sexual exploitation from its main platform in the April-September period, up from 13 million in the previous six months. It says the increase was due to improvements in detection.

In addition, Facebook said it removed 11.4 million instances of hate speech during the period, up

from 7.5 million in the previous six months. The company says it is beginning to remove hate speech proactively, the way it does with some extremist content, child-exploitation and other material.

Facebook expanded the data it shares on its removal of terrorist propaganda. Its earlier reports only included data on al-Qaida, ISIS and their affiliates. The latest report shows Facebook detects material posted by non-ISIS or al-

Qaida extremist groups at a lower rate than those two organizations.

The report is Facebook’s fourth on standards enforcement and the first to include data from Instagram in areas such as child nudity, illicit firearm and drug sales, and terrorist propaganda. The company said it removed 1.3 million instances of child nudity and child sexual exploitation from Instagram during the reported period, much of it before people saw it. (AP)

Google plans to offer checking accounts

NEW YORK (AP)—Google plans to add checking accounts from Citigroup and a credit union to its Google Pay digital wallet in 2020, the tech company said Wednesday.

Google confirmed an earlier report by The Wall Street Journal.

Big tech companies have been pushing into other arenas such as finance and health care to gain more access to consumer data. Google launched Google Wallet in 2011, now called Google Pay, which lets users store credit and debit card information and use them to make mobile and digital payments.

Now the Mountain View, California-based tech giant wants to add checking accounts.

“We’re exploring how we can partner with banks and credit unions in the U.S. to offer smart checking accounts through Google Pay,” the company said in a statement.

The move would let users use Google Pay but keep money in accounts that meet the federal regulatory standards for banks. While Google is working with Citigroup and Stanford Credit Union now, it hopes to add more partners in the future.

Google, Israel's National Library team up to digitize books

JERUSALEM (AP)—The National Library of Israel is working with Google to digitize 120,000 books from its extensive collection of Jewish texts and upload them to the internet for public use.

The library said in a statement this week that its contribution will significantly increase the percentage of Hebrew texts available on Google Books.

The National Library has already begun transporting 50,000 books to Google’s digitization center in Germany using climate-controlled shipping containers. Another 20,000 will be scanned in-house due to their rare or fragile nature.

The writings being digitized range in subject: a Hebrew book for school children with Yiddish translation, an Italian translation of “Romeo and Juliet” and a news article from Berlin on the history of the Jews in Cochin, India.



1919
ETH-Bibliothek Zürich



2019
Mer de Glace (Sea of Ice) Glacier

Science Matters

Warming's giant and tiny impacts

Global climate change can destroy great, famous landforms and cause the extinction of tiny, obscure sea creatures



Swiss photographer and pilot Walter Mittelholzer took the original photographs

Disappearing ice on Mont Blanc

New aerial images, compared with archival photos, show the effects of 100 years of climate change in the Swiss Alps

New photos were aligned with the 1919 camera's position by “monoplotting” calculations based on certain peaks’ locations

Small creature, clouded future

Lives under 8°C (46°F)

This “glacial relict” amphipod thrives in Finland’s deep, cold lake waters

Originally a sea species, it was landlocked after the last Ice Age, and now it is trapped in a warming habitat



Gammaracanthus lacustris

1 cm

Source: Kieran Baxter and Alice Watterson of University of Dundee (glaciers); Jouni Salonen of University of Jyväskylä and University of Eastern Finland; Freshwater Biology journal
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

SpaceX launches 60 more mini satellites for global internet

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—SpaceX launched 60 mini satellites Monday, the second batch of an orbiting network meant to provide global internet coverage.

The Falcon rocket blasted into the morning sky, marking the unprecedented fourth flight of a booster for SpaceX. The compact flat-panel satellites—just 575 pounds (260 kilograms) each—will join 60 launched in May.

SpaceX founder and chief executive Elon Musk wants to put thousands of these Starlink satellites in orbit, to offer high-speed internet service everywhere. He plans to start service next year in the northern U.S. and Canada,

with global coverage for populated areas after 24 launches.

Last month, Musk used an orbiting Starlink satellite to send a tweet: “Whoa, it worked!!!”

Employees gathered at company bases on both coasts cheered when the first-stage booster landed on a floating platform in the Atlantic.

“These boosters are designed to be used 10 times. Let’s turn it around for a fifth, guys,” company’s launch commentator said.

This also marked the first time SpaceX used a previously flown nose cone. The California-based company reuses rocket parts to cut costs.

Stacked flat inside the top

of the rocket, the newest satellites were going to maneuver even higher following liftoff, using krypton-powered thrusters. SpaceX said there was a potential problem with one of the 60 that could prevent it from moving beyond its initial 174 mile-high (280 kilometer-high) orbit. In that case, the faulty satellite will be commanded to re-enter and burn up harmlessly in the atmosphere.

Each satellite has an autonomous system for dodging space junk. In September, however, the European Space Agency had to move one of its satellites out of the way of a Starlink satellite. SpaceX later said it corrected the problem.

TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)



Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

Some slow PCs can't be made much faster

Q About three months ago, I purchased an HP Pavilion laptop, model 17-ar050wm, that is clearly the slowest PC I've ever owned or used. I had a technician look for anything that could be turned off or deleted to make the PC run faster, but it hasn't helped. Is this a problem with the PC that I'll have to live with, or is there a remedy?

A It is a problem that you will have to live with, although there are some workarounds to make the PC go a bit faster.

Online forums list many similar complaints about this 2018 HP laptop model, and they're all the result of the same problem: The PC's main processor and memory have to shoulder the entire computing load for the PC's high-definition screen.

Some PCs (typically the more expensive ones) solve this problem by including a secondary chip with its own memory to help with heavy-duty graphics processing. Because your PC has no secondary graphics chip, it runs slowly when its HD screen displays a lot of graphics.

One reviewer of this laptop noted that “graphics heavily slow down the processor, sometimes to the extent that even a simple web page will not load instantly” (see tinyurl.com/y6qj5vjb).

That said, there are a few workarounds to moderately speed up your PC:

- Don't leave multiple web pages open (particularly those that update automatically).
- Don't run multiple programs at the same time.
- Check the list of programs that automatically start when the PC does, and turn off unnecessary ones (see tinyurl.com/y52awaqs).

Another way to compensate for the PC's slow speed is to install an SSD (solid-state drive), a computer-chip-based substitute for a hard drive that retrieves data more quickly. But that would cost \$100 plus installation labor, which may be more than you want to spend on a year-old computer model that sells for \$450 new or \$410 refurbished.

Q I just upgraded to a new PC with Windows 10, and would like to install my copy of Microsoft Office Home and Student 2007 on the new computer. But I was told that the program won't work with Windows 10. Is that true?

A It is not true. Your version of Office will work with Windows 10, despite Microsoft warnings about some compatibility issues.

The compatibility concerns are about the Outlook 2007 mail program and the Access 2007 database program, neither of which was included in your “home and student” version of Office.

A bigger concern is that there have been no Microsoft security updates for Office Home and Student 2007 since 2017. But experts say that is not a huge problem, provided that you use the Windows Defender antivirus program that's included in Windows 10, and make sure you download all the Office 2007 updates through October 2017.

To head off the obvious question, readers should note that using Office 2007 without security updates is far less risky than using Windows 7 after its security updates cease in mid-January. Antivirus software can protect Office 2007, but antivirus programs will not—repeat, will not—protect Windows 7 after mid-January.

Life & Style

Despite female push, Garth Brooks bests Underwood at CMAs

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

The Country Music Association Awards almost fully honored and highlighted the women of country music—whose songs have been heavily dismissed on country radio over the years—until two words were uttered when they named its entertainer of the year: Garth Brooks.

Wednesday night's show kicked off with a performance featuring country female acts across generations, included three female hosts and had Maren Morris as its top nominee. But in the final moments, Brooks won the top prize over Carrie Underwood, who many had hoped would be the first female to win entertainer of the year since 2011.

Brooks did highlight female acts during his acceptance speech at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

"If they gave this award for this show tonight, I'd have to give it to Reba McEntire's performance," Brooks said, also praising Kelsea Ballerini and Luke Combs, who won two honors.

All eyes seemed to be on Underwood, who had a successful year with her album "Cry Pretty" and an all-female tour, for an entertainer of the year win. The last woman to win the prize was Taylor Swift



Garth Brooks accepts the award for entertainer of the year at the 53rd annual CMA Awards at Bridgestone Arena, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019, in Nashville, Tenn. AP

and Underwood was this year's sole female nominee.

Underwood hosted the show alongside McEntire and Dolly Parton, though she didn't win any awards. Underwood did win in a way—she won over the audience: She was a vocal beast, hitting all the right notes and more during a smoky performance of "Drinking Alone."

Morris, however, marked a big night for female country acts by taking home album of the year for "GIRL." The award also went to her producer busbee, who died

in September at age 43 from brain cancer.

"I would be really remiss if I didn't mention a huge facet of why this album sounds the way it does, and we miss him so dearly. He texted me the morning that we got the nomination for album of the year this year, and we were so excited, and that's our friend busbee," a teary-eyed Morris said onstage. "His wife Jess is here tonight and she looks so beautiful. Thank you for sharing your husband with us once a month, and my heart just goes out to you and your

beautiful daughters. I hope when they listen to this record or any of the songs that he made that made us all better, they know how amazing their father was."

Kacey Musgraves, who won four Grammys this year, picked up female vocalist of the year and music video of

WINNERS' LIST

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — Complete list of winners from the 2019 Country Music Association Awards, held Wednesday at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee.

- Entertainer of the year: Garth Brooks
- Female vocalist of the year: Kacey Musgraves
- Male vocalist of the year: Luke Combs
- New artist of the year: Ashley McBryde
- Album of the year: "GIRL," Maren Morris
- Song of the year: "Beautiful Crazy," Luke Combs
- Single of the year: "God's Country," Blake Shelton
- Vocal duo of the year: Dan + Shay
- Vocal group of the year: Old Dominion
- Musical event of the year: "Old Town Road (Remix)," Lil Nas X featuring Billy Ray Cyrus
- Music video of the year "Rainbow," Kacey Musgraves
- Musician of the year: Jenee Fleenor (fiddle)

the year for "Rainbow."

"The female creative spirit, the female energy is really needed right now, it's really important and I feel like it's something that Earth needs. So whether it's me that's up here or any of the other women in this category, I just think that it's a beautiful thing and I'm very appreciative," Musgraves said.

Other women who won Wednesday included Ashley McBryde, who won new artist of the year and fiddle player

Jenee Fleenor, named musician of the year.

Musgraves, joined by Willie Nelson, gave a wonderful performance of "Rainbow Connection" from "The Muppet Movie," even weaving in some of her own song "Rainbow." Pink also shined, with Chris Stapleton by her side, as she performed the song "Love Me Anyway." And Dan + Shay, who won vocal duo of the year, gave a beautiful, heartwarming performance of the hit "Speechless."

YouTube accused of abusing kids for poor performance dies

PHOENIX (AP)—An Arizona woman accused of abusing her adopted children who starred on her popular YouTube channel has died, authorities said Wednesday.

Maricopa Police Department spokesman Ricardo Alvarado said Mabelle Hobson died Tuesday at a Phoenix-area hospital. Her death was ruled natural and there was no crime suspected in it, according to Scottsdale police.

Hobson, 48, had been accused of starving her children and using pepper spray to punish them when they didn't perform to her liking in the skits that garnered thousands of online views.

She had been hospitalized with "extreme health issues" at the end of May and released from jail custody on June 12 because of her diagnosis, Pinal County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Lauren Reimer said in a statement. Authorities said she hadn't been hospitalized since then, but it's not known where she was before she was admitted again.

A judge in August declared

Hobson incompetent to stand trial, the Arizona Republic reported. Hobson's criminal case was on hold while authorities worked to restore Hobson to competency to stand trial.

Authorities have said Hobson locked up children in a closet for days without food, water or access to a bathroom.

YouTube terminated Hobson's channel after determining the channel violated its guidelines.

Episodes featured skits about children stealing cookies and a boy with superpowers.

The Pinal County Attorney's Office, the agency prosecuting Hobson, did not respond to requests for comment from The Associated Press. But county attorney Kent Volkmer said in a news conference that he was saddened by the death, according to the Maricopa Monitor. He said he wasn't able to elaborate on Hobson's medical condition.

Volkmer said that while prosecutors were looking forward to proving the case against Hobson, he was glad the kids don't have to go through trial.

"The only way that we could have proven these charges is these children would have been required to testify under oath in front of the jury, in front of the world. Because of the resolution of this case, these kids don't have to testify. They now can begin the healing process," Volkmer said.

Volkmer said his office was able to seize some of the earnings from the YouTube channel and that it's being held in an account.

"We believe ultimately all of the victims are going to make a claim for that. We have no real control of that," he said.

Police have said the children were taken out of school so they could keep filming the video series and hadn't been back for years.

Hobson's biological daughter, who is an adult, alerted police of the abuse, prompting officers to visit Hobson's home in the city of Maricopa, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) south of Phoenix.

The Arizona Department of Child Safety removed the children from the home.

CELEBRATING HER NEW LIFE

Evelyn S. Lapuz

April 11, 1963 – November 6, 2019

In her new life, she now joins her:

Father: †Jesus L. Lapuz

Sister: †Emma Lapuz

Her memory will forever live in the hearts of her:

Husband: Rowell Pamaran

Son: Lester Lapuz

Mother: Imelda S. Lapuz

Siblings: Nelson Lapuz and Family
Noel Lapuz and Family
Joey Lapuz and Family
Elisa Lapuz and Family
Emily Lapuz Reyes and Family
Jesus Lapuz Jr. and Family
Ian Joseph Lapuz and Family

When I Am Gone

When I am gone release me
 Let me go, I have so many things to see and do
 You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears
 Be happy that we had so many beautiful years
 I gave to you my love
 You can only guess
 how much you gave me in happiness
 I thank you for the love you each have shown
 But now it's time I travel alone
 So, grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must
 Then let your grief be comforted by my trust
 It's only for awhile that we must part
 So, bless the memories within your heart
 I won't be far away, for life goes on
 So, if you need me, call and I will come
 Though you can't see or touch me, I'll be near
 And if you listen within your heart, you'll hear
 All my love around you soft and clear
 And then when you must come this way alone
 I'll greet you with a smile and say
 "Welcome Home."

Join us for †Evelyn's memorial tribute and last day of Rosary on Saturday, November 16, 7:00pm at Kristo Rai Church / Social Hall.

Your presence will be greatly appreciated.

'Bits and pieces': Americans view impeachment on their terms

By STEPHEN GROVES and
TAMARA LUSH
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)—Cattle rancher Jeffery Gatzke in South Dakota was listening in as he worked on his tractor in his workshop. The first public hearing on impeaching President Donald Trump is a political show, he thinks, but one he wanted to tune into.

Nadxy Sanchez, 18, watched on her phone, splitting her attention during a psychology lecture at Marquette University in Milwaukee. As a child of immigrants, she says she takes Trump's presidency personally: "Living in the Trump era right now is scary and we're just wondering what's going to happen next."

Randy Johnson, a 63-year-old semi-retired Tennessee man and Trump voter, cast his fishing line into the Gulf of Mexico from a seawall in St. Petersburg, Florida. He was happily missing the opening gavel. "Oh, is that today?" he said.

If Americans have devoured past live hearings in Washington, following each dramatic twist and turn, many seemed only to nibble and graze on Wednesday's proceedings. They scanned headlines on their phones, read social media posts or clicked on snippets of video pushed out online. They planned to catch up with highlights or clips later, from a range of sources, and were content to let it play in the background.

The fractured and filtered way the country consumed the testimony—and all news—may have consequences. Democrats are hoping to use a series of hearings to tell a complex tale of overseas



Cindy Alvarez of Jackson, Miss., stretches on the workout mat at Fondren Fitness, while various television screens show different networks views of the Trump impeachment hearings as well as HGTV and ESPN programming, Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019. AP

intrigue involving unfamiliar figures and a distant war. There were signs Wednesday that many Americans were falling back on their partisan allegiances, rather than diving into the details.

"I get bits and pieces," said Bee Quarterman, a 64-year-old census worker in Savannah, Georgia. "Just enough to know what's going on."

As she walked into a barber shop for a lunchtime haircut, she glanced up at the hearing on the TV and said Americans should "just go to the ballot box" to settle whether Trump should remain in office.

House Democrats argue Trump abused his power when he solicited a political favor from the president of Ukraine

and held up millions in foreign aid. Polls show more Americans support impeachment than oppose, although the partisan divide on the question is striking and consistent in the weeks leading up the hearings.

In putting two respected and measured U.S. diplomats on live television Wednesday, Democrats were hoping, if not for a national epiphany, then at least a day that would stand out from the partisan acrimony and circus-like atmosphere of Trump-era Washington.

"I don't want to say it will be the tipping point, but I think it will be the beginning of a week or two where it will be very difficult for the president to change the subject," said Adam Cutler, a Denver tech-

nology manager and Democrat who arranged to work from home so he could watch the day's events.

Democrats' goal is a shift in public opinion that mirrors 1973, when the nationally televised Watergate hearings helped sink President Richard Nixon's approval ratings before his 1974 resignation from office.

But other recent examples offer Democrats less hope. Special prosecutor Robert Mueller's testimony about his investigation into interference in 2016 election produced little change in Trump's approval. Live hearings on accusation of sexual assault against Judge Brett Kavanaugh did not prevent his ascension to the Supreme Court.

For Gatzke, a 50-year-old farmer and rancher from Hitchcock, South Dakota, the Ukraine affair was just the Washington establishment's latest attempt to thwart an outsider president.

"He is not one of them and they don't like it," he said, just before the hearings began. Gatzke caught as much as he could during his morning chores on the farm, before he had to load up cattle for the processing plant. His wife, Sheila Gatzke, watched, too, and fumed about what she claimed was testimony based on "hearsay," a defense Trump has pushed and his Republican defenders on the committee echoed on Wednesday.

Christian Jacobs, 50, sat in a beach bar in St. Petersburg,

wearing a fedora and reluctantly watching the drama on television.

"I did not want this," he said, glancing at the TV with and sipping in a breath from his marijuana vape pen. A Democrat, he had initially balked at impeachment but has come around to it as details trickled out about Trump's behavior with Ukraine.

"I'm so afraid, left to his own devices, what else he may do," Jacobs said of Trump.

Jim Borelli's response to the turmoil and conflict in Washington? Pray.

The 60-year-old attorney in the Kansas City suburb of Overland Park, Kansas, read his Bible at a coffee shop, part of his daily devotional, after listening to part of the hearing Wednesday morning.

One of the daily readings was a verse from the Book of Wisdom which he found "appropriate for today," the Democrat said, noting that it reads in part, "for those in power a rigorous scrutiny impends."

"I pray that our leaders exercise wisdom in the impeachment process," he said.

He watched part of the hearing with his 95-year-old mother but said it's hard to talk about politics with some people in the current environment.

"I think we are in a bad space," he said.

In Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Bryant Randall, a freshman at Louisiana State University, didn't like what he saw either. But that's because the registered Republican found the Democrats' case unpersuasive.

"All the witnesses who have come forward so far are saying, 'I interpret this as a quid pro quo,'" Randall said. "I don't care how you interpret it. I care about what the facts are."

Millions watched opening of Trump hearings, how many heard?

NEW YORK (AP)—Millions of Americans likely saw the House's first day of open impeachment hearings on President Donald Trump on Wednesday. The open question is how many actually heard it.

For six hours, career diplomats George Kent and Bill Taylor sat before Congress and answered questions. But from the immediate media response, it was hard to shake the sense that the proceedings didn't pierce partisan gridlock or pre-set opinions.

"There was not even the slightest hint that any Republican is taking the evidence that they were given ... and reconsidering," Fox News Channel's Chris Wallace said at the hearing's conclusion.

ABC's George Stephanopoulos admitted, "part of

me is wondering, what do facts matter anymore in these debates?"

All three networks—ABC, CBS, NBC—bumped regularly scheduled programming for the hearing. CNN and MSNBC aired the hearings. PBS and Fox broadcasting streamed coverage and left it up to local affiliates to decide whether to carry it.

MSNBC brought a surprise hire into its coverage: George Conway, husband of White House counselor Kellyanne Conway and a prominent social media critic of his wife's boss.

"I don't think the Republicans made much headway," George Conway said. "You saw some non-partisan professionals tell us the facts, and the facts were quite damning."

The network played it coy

about Conway's appearance, however. He was identified onscreen as a "conservative attorney" and anchor Brian Williams said it was, "yes, that George Conway." But MSNBC never explicitly said who Conway's wife worked for.

Former Trump chief of staff Reince Priebus was part of CBS' coverage, leading to one blunt exchange with anchor Norah O'Donnell.

"Presidents don't get impeached because they acted inappropriately," Priebus said. "Presidents get impeached because they conducted themselves in such a way that they committed a high crime or misdemeanor as outlined under the Constitution."

Retorted O'Donnell: "I think Bill Clinton was impeached for acting inappropriately."

Historical society preserves 210-year-old theater curtain

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The Rhode Island Historical Society has preserved a rare, 210-year-old theater curtain depicting a sweeping view of Providence.

The organization was celebrating the completion of the conservation work on Wednesday for their 198th annual meeting. The society said it knows of no other older surviving piece of American theater scenery.

Executive Director Morgan Grefe said it's amazing that a fabric curtain survived more than two centuries to tell the story of Providence.

"Here we are in 2019, still talking about it and being surprised by what it has to tell us," she said.

Painted in 1809 by John Worrall, the curtain measures

24 feet (7.3 meters) wide and 15 feet (4.6 meters) tall. The drop scene was used in the city's only theater in the early 1800s to entertain audiences between shows in the early days of stage performances in New England.

The historical society took possession in 1833 when the theater closed.

"It was seen as a spectacle and something that needed to be saved. We were the folks in town that saved things," Grefe said.

The panorama of the city is displayed in the organization's ballroom in Providence, serving as a backdrop for many public programs. Conservators recently removed decades of dust, painted worn sections along the seams and repaired small tears. The historical so-

ciety and a private donor paid for the work.

The organization's files and research on the curtain date to the time it was painted and experts haven't been able to find an older piece of surviving American theater scenery, said Richard Ring, the deputy executive director for collections and interpretation.

"Most folks who would've gotten theater curtains would've said that they can't handle it and gotten rid of them," he said. "That's why it's a rare survival. It takes so much effort to keep it the way it is for so long."

The historical society invites the public to view the curtain at its office on Benevolent Street from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Palin says she learned of divorce plans from attorney

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)—Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin told a Christian broadcaster she learned her husband was seeking a divorce in an email from his attorney.

The revelation came in an interview released Tuesday with James Dobson, founder of the Family Talk Christian ministry. He said the interview had been conducted previously.

Palin said she received an email June 19 from the attorney, almost three months before Todd Palin filed for divorce on his birthday in September.

She described the filing that came shortly after their 31st wedding anniversary as devastating. "I thought I got shot," she said.

Palin said they're going through counseling and their marriage isn't "over, over." She said attorneys are "getting rich" off them.

Dobson had asked how people could pray for her. Palin said the prayer would be for "God's will to be done, but that God would make sure that we know that the grass isn't always greener on the other side"

And "it still has to be mowed," Dobson said, interrupting her. "And it still has to be mowed," she said.

Palin later said God doesn't want families to split up. "And to me, in a general sense, marriage is so extremely important as foundation of our nation. It helps make America that much greater, is that security of family, and I'm not to the point of wanting mine to be split," she said.

A message seeking comment was left for an attorney believed to be representing Todd Palin.

The Palins have five children, one of whom is a minor.

Katy Perry to perform at World T20 final on Women's Day

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Katy Perry will perform before and after the Women's Twenty20 World Cup cricket final on International Women's Day as organizers bid to set a world record for attendance.

Perry will perform March 8 at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in what is tipped to be the biggest women's cricket match ever.

The tournament starts Feb. 21 in Sydney with defending champion Australia against India and will conclude under lights at the historic MCG.

The International Cricket Council says local organizers are aiming to break the world record of 90,185 for a crowd

at a women's sports event, set during the 1999 FIFA World Cup final at Pasadena, Calif.

"The final ... presents a ground breaking opportunity to set a world record for attendance at a women's sporting fixture on the day when equality and women's achievements are celebrated globally," the ICC said in a statement Wednesday.

Perry, who is India this week, said in a statement: "I'm all about celebrating equality and the achievements of women, which naturally happens on a global scale on International Women's Day. It's no coincidence that I said yes to performing live at the women's final on this day."

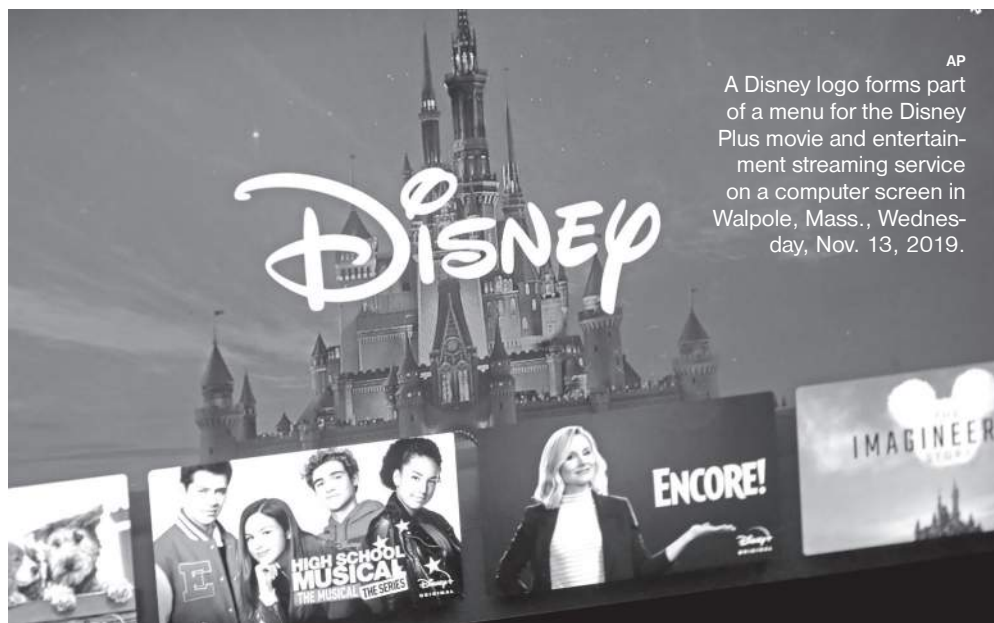
Disney Plus hits 10M subscribers in 1 day

NEW YORK (AP) — Disney Plus says it hit more than 10 million sign-ups on its first day of launch, far exceeding expectations.

Disney's mix of Marvel and Star Wars movies and shows, classic animated films and new series appears to be a hit out of the gate after its launch on Tuesday.

Disney has invested billions in its streaming service, which costs \$7 a month or \$70 a year after a 7-day free trial. Customers of some Verizon wireless and home-internet plans were offered a year free.

Disney didn't break down where the subscriptions came from or if they were free or paid monthly or yearly. Some analysts thought it would take



AP
A Disney logo forms part of a menu for the Disney Plus movie and entertainment streaming service on a computer screen in Walpole, Mass., Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2019.

Disney a year to reach 10 million subscribers.

Netflix has garnered 158 million subscribers since

launching its streaming platform in 2007.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Maya Angelou, RuPaul among California Hall of Fame class

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Author Maya Angelou and performer RuPaul are among the inductees for the next class of California Hall of Fame. Gov. Gavin Newsom and his wife, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, announced the inductees on Wednesday. The class includes soccer player and two-time World Cup champion Brandi Chastain, skateboarder and entrepreneur Tony Hawk, actor and comedian George Lopez, chef and restaurateur Wolfgang Puck, astrophysicist France A. Cordova, author Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, civil rights leader James M. Lawson Jr. and winemaker Helen M. Turley. The class will be inducted during a ceremony on Dec. 10, though Angelou died in 2014. The California Hall of Fame started in 2006, and inductees are selected each year by the governor and first partner.

Newsom is a Democrat and says the inductees "embody California's innovative spirit."

Cirque du Soleil founder held in Tahiti in marijuana case

PARIS (AP) — The founder of world-renowned circus Cirque du Soleil has been detained in French Polynesia in a drug-trafficking investigation. A French police official told The Associated Press that Guy Laliberte is expected to appear before a judge Wednesday in the territory's capital of Papeete, on the island of Tahiti. His detention also was confirmed by Lune Rouge, a Montreal-based company headed by Laliberte. It said Laliberte is being questioned about cannabis grown for personal use on his private island of Nukutepipi. The company says Laliberte is a medical marijuana user, but he "categorically denies" involvement in the sale or trafficking of

controlled substances. Local broadcaster Polynesie 1 says police detained a person close to Laliberte recently for drug possession and found photos of cannabis plantations in the person's cellphone.

Kris Kristofferson gives surprise performance at Fargo bar

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — Kris Kristofferson surprised customers when he performed with an acoustic guitar at a North Dakota bar after a band taped a request to the singer-songwriter's tour bus. Kristofferson stopped at Dempsey's Public House in downtown Fargo on Saturday night and asked to sing with the band 32 Below. KFGO-AM reports the band had taped a note to Kristofferson's tour bus door. The note said the band was "huge fans" and "would be absolutely stoked" if Kristofferson came to the bar and allowed them to buy him "a beer or five."

Dempsey's General Manager Jeff Fonder says Kristofferson performed "Me and Bobby McGee." 32 Below later said on Facebook: "We played a legendary song with the legend who wrote it!" Kristofferson was in town to perform at the Fargo Theatre.

Winfrey, Coates to speak at upcoming Toni Morrison tribute

NEW YORK (AP) — Oprah Winfrey, Ta-Nehisi Coates and Jesmyn Ward will be among the speakers at a tribute to the late Toni Morrison. The Nobel laureate's longtime publisher, Alfred A. Knopf, announced Tuesday that the event will take place November 21 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in Manhattan. Other guests will include Angela Davis, New Yorker editor David Remnick and Michael Ondaatje. Morrison, known for novels such as "Beloved" and "The Bluest Eye," died in August at age 88.

Wedding guest list is full of question for bride-to-be

DEAR ABBY: I am engaged to the love of my life ("Tom"), and I dread making the guest list for our wedding. I don't want any of my cousins there. The young ones are rude and obnoxious, and the one who's an adult I no longer talk to. I asked my mom what to do. She said if we invite any kids, then we must invite all of them.

We would like my fiancé's young nieces and nephews to be in the wedding party. Tom said he isn't inviting anyone he doesn't want there. A few family members invited me to their weddings because my parents were invited, but I don't feel I know them well enough to invite them to mine, although one couple was kind enough to get us an engagement present. I want to be nice, but I don't want any nonsense. Please help.

TORN IN THE EAST

DEAR TORN: Your mother has the right idea. Listen to her. Weddings can bring families together, but they can also do the opposite. The relatives you are thinking of excluding are the children of your parents' siblings. If you don't know them well, be gracious. Should you snub them while including your fiancé's nieces and nephews, word will get back to them—trust me on that—and the negative repercussions could last for many years and affect not just you but also your parents.

DEAR ABBY: I work for a large company that handles calls from all around the U.S. It amazes me how many people call and don't realize we can't hear them when their TV is blaring, their kids are screaming or their dogs are barking.

My plea to callers: Please choose a quiet, uninterrupted time so we can help you. Also, we are able to hear you when you are using the bathroom during your call, and that includes every little sound you are making. It's not pleasant, thank you very much!

And when we ask you for your mailing address, try to remember that we are not around the block from you. Give us your entire address, including the ZIP code, because lots of states have towns with the same names. And oh, by the way, when you're eating that snack, the crunching and bag crumpling are like explosions in our ears.

Please help us to help you when you call, and be courteous. We are regular people just like you.

HERE TO HELP YOU

DEAR HERE TO HELP: I hear you loud and clear, and so do my readers. I'm printing your letter because sometimes "regular people" just need to be reminded.

DEAR ABBY: I have a preteen daughter, and for the last couple of years we have read Hanukkah books and lit the me-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



norah, always saying the prayers. We are not Jewish, but I want her to be tolerant of all religions and cultures. Is this disrespectful to the Jewish community?

LOVE TO ALL IN PENNSYLVANIA

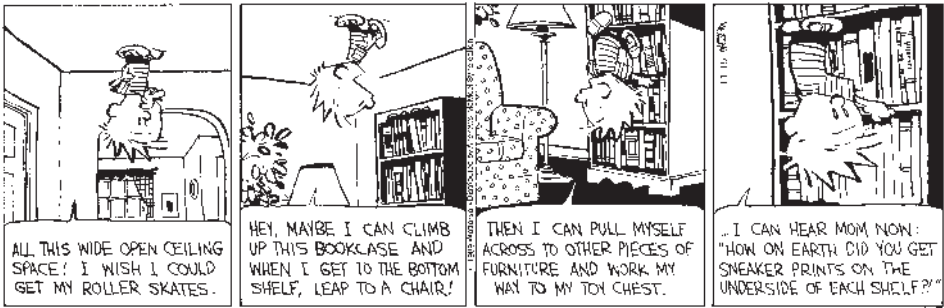
DEAR LOVE: I don't think so. As long as you're celebrating, because Hanukkah lasts eight days, give your daughter a little gift each night so she can enjoy all the benefits of the holiday while she's at it.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



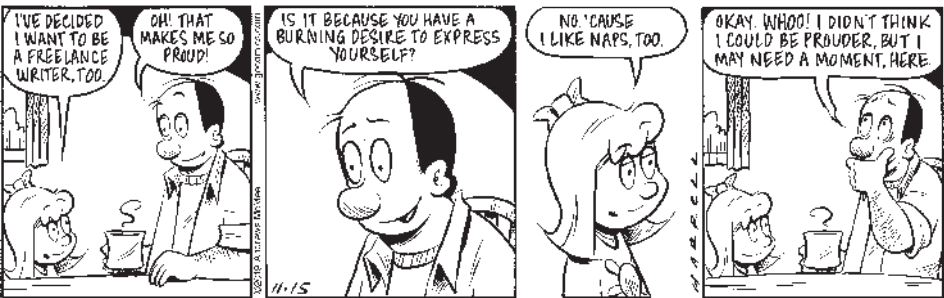
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Blue Bloods" ailer

4 Tax form ID

7 Brought under control

12 Acapulco gold

13 Indivisible

14 Russian range

15 Steal from

16 Factory that processes wood pulp

18 Soul, to Camus

19 Offspring

20 Byron or Tennyson

22 Hearty quaff

23 Not pizzicato

27 "Mangia!"

29 Second cup of coffee

31 "We — Overcome"

34 Lent a hand

35 Assistance for WWII vets

DOWN

1 Pink hue

2 Stomach remedy

3 Serious

4 Soaks (up)

5 Answer angrily

6 Himalayan land

7 Rotate

8 Pitcher's pride

9 — tai angle

10 Right

11 ISP alter-native

17 Ornamental jug

21 Sandwich shops

23 Blazing

24 Free (of)

25 The Browns, on score-boards

26 Like Yeller

28 100%

30 Hearing thing

31 Pvt.'s superior

32 Hasten

33 Tummy muscles

36 Scottish lake

37 Unit of ammo

40 Mayflower features

42 Improvises

43 Select group

44 Pie-in-the-face sound

45 "Lion King" villain

46 Tactic

48 OED entries

49 Sundial numeral

50 Rebel Turner

51 "CSI" evidence

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 11-15

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shailene Woodley, 28; Jonny Lee Miller, 47; Beverly D'Angelo, 68; Sam Waterston, 79.

Happy Birthday: Keep personal matters a secret this year to avoid interference. Money matters should be handled cautiously, and joint ventures should not be considered. This is the year to make personal changes; look inward to decide what you want to do next. Don't limit what's available to you or let anyone stand in your way. Embrace new beginnings, and let go of the past. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 28, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Easy does it. Don't let upset creep into any situation you are dealing with at home or at work. Concentrate on taking care of your responsibilities and avoiding people who are looking for trouble. Physical activity is encouraged. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Travel down a path that excites you. Don't hesitate to embrace something new and unfamiliar. Today is about learning and trying new things. A partnership will interest you, but bide your time. Listen, but don't offer sensitive information in return. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Question what others are doing. Exaggerated claims will be made. Stick to what you know will work, even if that means moving forward on your own. Do what's necessary to finish what you start. Live up to what's expected of you. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You know the rules. If someone tries to tempt you to do something questionable, don't hesitate to say no. Disappointment shouldn't ruin your plans.

Do your own thing, and you'll encounter someone offering something that interests you. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pay attention. If you don't have all the information, remain silent until you know what you are up against. Concentrate on personal gains, physical improvements and entertaining someone you love. Avoid anyone acting impulsively or using pressure tactics. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Observation will help you avoid a sticky situation. Watch how others respond to changes that are coming down the pipeline. What you discover will help you make a wise decision that will position you for advancement. Knowledge is power. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Make plans with friends who share your interests. A chance to share your feelings, thoughts and intentions will lead to input that will encourage you to follow through with your plans. Romance is apparent, but a hidden matter is best dealt with first. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Focus on making financial gains, settling differences and taking better care of your physical and emotional well-being. Don't be fooled by diet fads or someone who has ulterior motives. If something that's offered isn't going to lead to an improvement, take a pass. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Focus on image, appearance and health. Set goals that will encourage you to get fit, eat well and pay closer attention to the type of people you let into your inner circle. Express your feelings, and do what's in your best interest. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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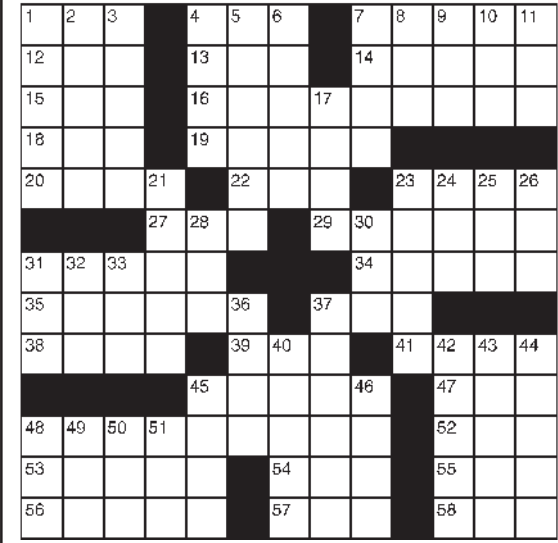
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take on something new and exciting. Discuss your plans with those who will be affected by the decisions you make. A change of attitude will help you overcome an emotional pitfall. Minimize your spending and indulgent behavior. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): How you help others will make a difference. Offer suggestions, but don't volunteer to do the work. Let others take responsibility for their actions. Take time to reach your personal goals. Your energy and strength need to be distributed wisely. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take charge, think matters through and execute your plans. Refuse to let what others do disrupt your goals. Don't get involved in someone else's drama. If you interfere, you will end up being blamed for meddling. *****

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, eccentric and impressive. You are smart and pioneering.

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

QUARTETS

Solution: 6 letters

N B A R O Q U E K A R O V D Y
O A E N D Y A H R E L T A T S
N R G L V C A R T E R O C K S
N B D R B O C C H E R I N I U
E E A R O M N E V O H T E E B
L R A R I L E A E N V O G U E
C S S U I F L S E I N F E L D
S H E U I T T E N P A R T S U
G O I O O O E C E L O B O A
N P N F H O R N R T P P E P L
I B O R F L U T E S R I L R C
R A M A J O S E P H I A A A N
T S R N S E N N A H O J Z N Y
S S A Z C L A S S I C A L O O
S C H U B E R T I K M U R D M

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Alto, Barbershop, Baritone, Baroque, Bass, Beethoven, Bela, Boccherini, Brass, Carter, Cello, Chiffons, Classical, Claude, Debussy, Drifters, Drum Kit, Dvorak, Ensemble, En Vogue, Flute, Four, Franz, Harmonies, Haydn, Horn, Johannes, Joseph, Lennon, Mozart, Organ, Parts, Piano, Play, Rock, Schubert, Seinfeld, Soprano, Statler, Strings, Tops

Yesterday's Answer: Coastal

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REPORTS TO:

PROGRAM AIDE

P.L. 22 / STEP 1-10

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PREFERRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

Interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productive working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals;

Oral and written communication skills that enable employee to effectively and professionally communicate with co-workers, clients and other working professionals; and

Proficiency in usage of computers including, but not limited to word processing and spreadsheet applications.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on middle road approximately 100 yards north of the Guala Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted in a sealed envelope addressed to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resumé, (3) Completed Application forms, (4) a Police Clearance and (5) must be submitted **no later than 5:00pm on November 20, 2019**. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. Jim Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] or email at jrayphand@nmpasi.org. NMPASI IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

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Verlander, deGrom win 2nd Cy Young Awards



NEW YORK
(AP)—Justin Verlander

has a second AL Cy Young Award—and a clear path paved toward Cooperstown.

Verlander beat out teammate Gerrit Cole in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America revealed Wednesday night. Verlander got 17 first-place votes to 13 for Cole, who became a free agent after the season.

Mets ace Jacob deGrom won the NL prize for the second straight year. He received 29 of 30 first-place votes, becoming the 11th pitcher to win Cy Youngs in consecutive years. He and Verlander are the 20th and 21st players to win the award multiple times.

The 36-year-old Verlander won his first Cy Young in 2011 with Detroit, when he was also named MVP. Since then, he'd been a runner-up three times.

"The adversity I went through puts a new perspective on everything," he said. "I mean, still would've liked to have won a couple of them."

Verlander continued a marvelous second act to his career since a 2017 trade from Detroit to Houston. He led the majors with 21 victories and padded his Hall of Fame resume by getting his 3,000th strikeout in his final start of the regular season. He also reached 300 punchouts in a season for the first time.

Verlander no-hit Toronto on Sept. 1, becoming the sixth pitcher with three no-hitters in a career. He joined a group that includes Hall of Famers Nolan Ryan, Sandy Koufax, Bob Feller and Cy Young, along with 1880s pitcher Larry Corcoran.

Forget about slowing



New York Mets starting pitcher Jacob deGrom throws to a Washington Nationals batter during the second inning of a baseball game Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2019, in Washington.

struggled to support him.

After signing a \$137.5 million, five-year deal to remain with New York shortly before opening day, deGrom wasn't so dominant early in the season. He got hit around in April and May, even allowing seven runs in an outing against the last-place Marlins.

The embarrassment in Miami was a wake-up call for the gritty deGrom. Following that loss, he went 8-3 with a 1.89 ERA over his final 23 starts. DeGrom wrapped up the season with 23 consecutive scoreless innings.

"I feel like I was trying to better what I did in 2018," he said, adding "I think that was something I struggled with to start this year, was kind of dwelling on what happened last year. Kind of not focusing on the task ahead as much as I probably should have."

Meanwhile, Awards week wraps Thursday with the announcement of AL and NL MVPs. Angels star Mike Trout is seeking his third MVP, but might lose out after his season was cut short due to injury. Astros infielder Alex Bregman and A's shortstop Marcus Semien are the other finalists in the AL.

Brewers outfielder Christian Yelich is trying to repeat as the NL winner, but his season was also cut short by an injury. It'll likely be him or Dodgers youngster Cody Bellinger. Nationals third baseman Anthony Rendon is also a finalist.

down—Verlander's goal this offseason is to add velocity to his top-end fastball. He's thinking about using weighted balls and other new-age throwing techniques.

"I will always try to push the boundaries of what I can do," Verlander said. "If my body says, 'Hold on, you can't do that anymore,' then I'll pull back."

The case between Verlander and Cole was tight. Cole had more strikeouts (326) and a lower ERA (2.50), but Verlander threw 10 2/3 more innings and won more games.

They are the first set of teammates to finish 1-2 in AL voting—it's happened five times in the NL.

Verlander and Cole pitched Houston to the World Series, where Cole continued to dominate while Verlander faltered. The right-hander lost twice to the champion Washington Nationals—a letdown not factored in voting that concluded before the postseason began.

He's hoping to take another run at a title—with Cole—next season.

"I know that Gerrit had a great time playing here and

I know he would like to return, if possible," Verlander said. "But that is now on Gerrit and his family and people above me."

Tampa Bay Rays righty Charlie Morton finished third a year after leaving Houston in free agency.

DeGrom is in special company as a repeat NL winner, joining Sandy Koufax, Greg Maddux, Randy Johnson, Tim Lincecum, Clayton Kershaw and Max Scherzer.

"It was a dream to play this game and a dream to win one Cy Young," deGrom said.

"To win back to back was a goal. It's hard to explain. You set these goals, but it almost doesn't feel real yet."

The 31-year-old led the NL with 255 strikeouts and posted a 2.43 ERA. His resume was bolstered by his durability—deGrom totaled 204 innings, compared to 182 2/3 for runner-up Hyun-Jin Ryu and 172 1/3 for Scherzer, the Nationals ace who finished third.

A year after taking the award despite just 10 victories—fewest ever by a starting pitcher—deGrom earned 11 wins with a Mets team that's

Moustakas on Phillies' radar

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)—Scott Boras, baseball's most high-powered agent, has forged an undeniable chemistry with the Phillies and owner John Middleton, in particular, over the two years. It started with the pursuit and eventual signing of Jake Arrieta before the 2018 season and reached a crescendo last winter when the club signed Bryce Harper to a staggering \$330 million contract.

Boras will look to capitalize on that chemistry again this winter. The Phillies have needs and he has solutions.

On the pitching side, Boras represents several free-agent starters, including the two biggest stars on the market, Gerrit Cole and Stephen Strasburg. He also represents lefties Dallas Keuchel and

Hyun-Jin Ryu, the majors' ERA champ in 2019.

The Phillies, as documented, are very much in need of starting pitching.

They also could look to add a third baseman this winter as they allow top prospect Alec Bohm more development time and consider a possible move to another position for him. Boras represents two top free-agent third basemen, Anthony Rendon and Mike Moustakas.

It is likely that the Phils will look to spend the bulk of their free-agent budget on pitching—and it's difficult to argue with that approach. That could leave the Phillies as interested bystanders in the Rendon sweepstakes as Rendon is seeking a lengthy, mega-dollar deal. The Phils will

certainly monitor the market for Josh Donaldson, another free-agent third baseman, but the best fit in terms of dollars and years might be Moustakas, who has played the last two seasons in Milwaukee on one-year contracts.

According to multiple sources, Phillies officials touched base with Team Boras here at the general managers meetings this week and the two sides discussed a number of subjects—and not just pitching.

In other words, Moustakas is very much on the Phillies' radar.

The Phillies' most pressing need remains starting pitching. Cole is the biggest name on the market. The Phillies will be in the hunt for him, though the Angels and Yan-

kees may pull out all the stops to sign him to what could be a multi-year deal worth more than \$250 million. Boras disclosed Wednesday that he recently had lunch with Angels owner Arte Moreno. He would not say if he'd recently broken bread with Middleton.

"Well," he said with a grin, "I'll let John tell you about that."

Boras, as he typically does at the general managers meetings and winter meetings, which arrive next month, talked up his top clients in florid language.

"If this were major-league Christmas, we would be looking at 30 stockings that clearly wanted a lump of Cole," he said, referring to his stud right-handed client. "I think starting pitching has become back in vogue. It's an aggressive market."

Boras employed an oceanic analogy when refer-

encing Strasburg.

"In the oceans of the playoffs, the Strasburg sank many contending ships," he said.

Strasburg, along with fellow ace Max Scherzer, helped the Washington Nationals win the World Series last month.

"There are general managers who I said four or five years ago to that, 'You're going to have a very hard time winning a world championship if you don't sign this player.' And I'm very happy to say that player was Max Scherzer," Boras said. "I told that to three teams and they have not won and he did win."

"The reality of it is that those No. 1 kind of guys, those special arms, take you through the playoff seas. You have to have them because when it comes down to that, you end up throwing 70 percent of the innings (in the postseason) among three guys.

"It all boils down to what's important to (teams), what's important to their ownership, what drive do they have to get to where they are really going to take risks. All of these things are risks in their minds. But that's how you win. You take risks. You pay Max Scherzer \$30 million a year when no one else would, and by doing that, you've been rewarded."

Boras became convinced that Middleton wants to win after the Phillies signed Harper last winter.

"I don't see any stop sign in John's pursuit of his goal and that's a world championship," Boras said. "He's an owner that has been very straightforward about his path and his commitment. He's very, very involved in the franchise and it's really good to see owners really be that committed to their city, to their team."

Harden scores 47, powers Rockets past Clippers



HOUSTON (AP)—James Harden scored 47 points and the Houston Rockets outlasted the Clippers 102-93 in a wild game that saw Los Angeles coach Doc Rivers ejected in the fourth quarter Wednesday night.

Houston was up by two with about two minutes left when former Rocket Patrick Beverley fouled out. Harden made both free throws before grabbing a rebound on the other end and hitting a 3 to make it 95-88.

Beverley was given a technical foul during a timeout after the play and Harden hit the two free throws.

Rivers was then given two technical fouls and ejected to the delight of son Austin Rivers, the Houston guard who laughed and signaled for the officials to T-up his father. Doc Rivers spent several more seconds screaming at the referees before slowly walking across the court and to the locker room.

Harden made both free throws before JaMychal Green made a 3 for Los Angeles. But Harden stole the ball from Kawhi Leonard, and Tyson Chandler made a reverse dunk with 37 seconds left to make it 100-91.

Russell Westbrook added 17 points to help the Rockets win their fifth straight game. Clint Capela had 12 points and 20 rebounds before going to the locker room with about 4 1/2 minutes remaining after taking a blow to the face fighting for a rebound. Leonard led Los Angeles with 26 points, 12 rebounds and seven assists.

Lakers 120, Warriors 94

In Los Angeles, No Anthony Davis for the first time this season, no problem for the Lakers.

LeBron James had 23 points and 12 assists in three quarters, Kyle Kuzma and JaVale McGee dominated the middle, and the Lakers rolled

past the hobbled Golden State Warriors.

Kuzma scored 22 points starting for Davis and McGee had 18 points and 17 rebounds.

"Our bigs were amazing," James said. "They controlled the interior both offensively and defensively."

The Lakers improved their NBA-best record to 9-2 without Davis, who was held out because of a sore right shoulder.

"If one of our stars go down, we have to pick up for him," McGee said.

The Lakers had 31 assists in the second half of a back-to-back. Their 39 at Phoenix a night earlier was the franchise's most since April 14, 2009. They notched 31 against defending NBA champion Toronto.

Celtics 140, Wizards 133

In Boston, Kemba Walker scored 25 points and the Celtics overcame 44 points from Bradley Beal to beat the Washington Wizards.

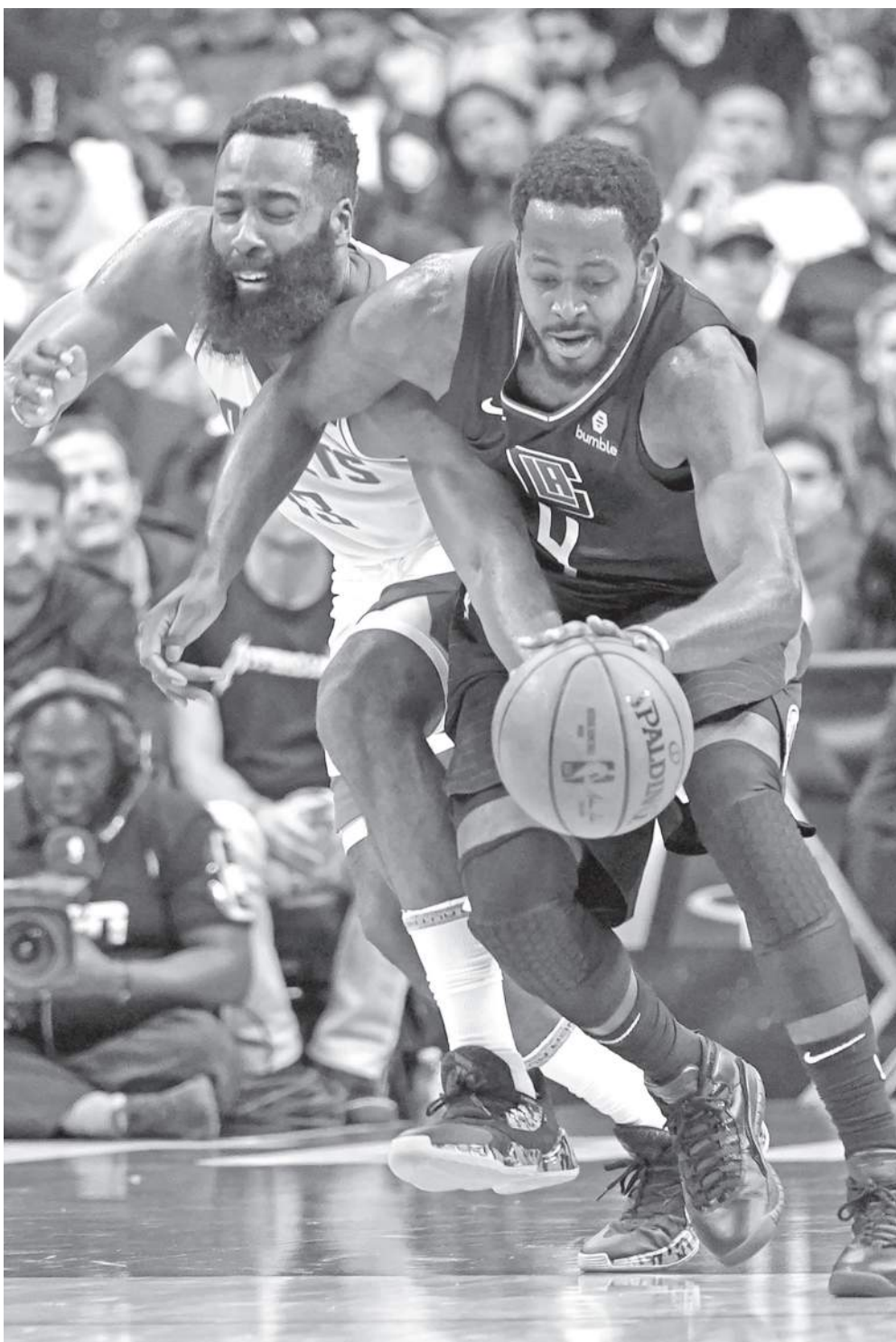
Jayson Tatum bounced back from a historically bad shooting night with 23 points, Jaylen Brown scored 22 and Enes Kanter had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Celtics. Boston has not lost since the season-opener at Philadelphia, its longest streak since winning 16 in a row in the 2017-18 season.

Rui Hachimura scored 21 points and Davis Bertans had nine points and 10 rebounds for the Wizards, who lost their third straight game, and for the sixth time in seven games. Former Celtics guard Isaiah Thomas, who led Boston to the 2017 Eastern Conference finals, scored 18 and had seven assists.

Boston led by two at the half and made it a six-point game after three quarters. After Bertans hit a 3 to open the fourth and make it 102-99, the Celtics ran off the next 10 points.

Magic 112, Sixers 97

In Orlando, it took the Magic 10 3/4 games to find their offense.



Nikola Vucevic had 25 points and seven Orlando players scored in double figures as the Magic came up with a big fourth quarter and beat the Philadelphia 76ers.

"It was good to see the offense finally click, especially in the fourth quarter when you need it the most," said Vucevic, who had 12 of his points in the fourth. "Hopefully, we can play

that way going forward and kick-start our offense a little bit."

The Magic won for just the second time in seven games. The Magic shot 13 for 24 in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, the 76ers shot 6 for 19 with seven turnovers.

"They say play your best when your best is needed, and that was a good win. That was a good fourth quarter," Magic

coach Steve Clifford said. "We made good plays at both ends of the floor."

Aaron Gordon had 18 points and 13 rebounds for the Magic, and D.J. Augustin had 12 points and eight assists off the bench.

Grizzlies 119, Hornets 117

In Charlotte, Ja Morant's win-

ning layup left the rookie flexing and shouting at the crowd and sent father Tee racing down the sideline while pumping his knees high in the air, filled with excitement over his son's big moment.

Yep, Morant's homecoming game went about as well as he could have hoped.

With his parents sitting courtside and nearly 100 friends in the stands, Morant scored on a driving left-handed layup with 0.7 seconds left to give the Memphis Grizzlies 119-117 victory over the Charlotte Hornets on Wednesday night. The South Carolina native had his first double-double with 23 points and 11 assists to help the Grizzlies win consecutive games for the first time this season.

"It definitely felt good," Morant said. "Coach called the play, they switched and I just attacked."

Raptors 114, Trail Blazers 106

In Portland, Pascal Siakam scored 36 points, Fred VanVleet had 30 and Toronto beat the Trail Blazers.

Siakam scored 13 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to help close out the Trail Blazers in a bounce back from Monday night's loss to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rodney Hood led the Blazers with 25 points.

Damian Lillard, who entered Wednesday trailing only James Harden in points per game, had nine points in his worst outing of the season. He was 2 for 12 from the field.

Ibrahimovic leaves Galaxy



CARSON, Calif. (AP)—You're welcome and goodbye, Los Angeles.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic and the LA Galaxy are officially parting ways after two eventful seasons, the 38-year-old Swedish superstar and the club announced Wednesday.

"I came, I saw, I conquered," Ibrahimovic wrote on Twitter. "Thank you (at)LAGalaxy for making me feel alive again. To the Galaxy fans—you wanted Zlatan, I gave you Zlatan. You are welcome. The story continues...Now go back to

watch baseball."

The Swedish superstar scored 56 goals in 52 MLS games after joining the Galaxy in March 2018, injecting his inimitable blend of talent and swagger into a stagnating club. This season, he scored a franchise-record 30 goals—more than the rest of the Galaxy roster combined (28).

A week before Zlatan debuted with a dramatic two-goal performance as a substitute in a win over crosstown rival Los Angeles FC, he announced his arrival in Hollywood by taking out a full-page ad in the Los Angeles Times

reading simply: "Dear Los Angeles, You're welcome."

"Since his arrival in 2018, Zlatan has positively influenced the sport of soccer in Los Angeles," Galaxy President Chris Klein said in a statement announcing the departure. "We are grateful for his work ethic and passion. We thank Zlatan for his professionalism and immeasurable impact on the Los Angeles community and the soccer community in North America as a whole."

Ibrahimovic's MLS jaunt was a mixed success, at least by his lofty standards. He was

an elite, steady scorer for the five-time league champions and was likely the league's top box-office draw on the road, and he kept the market in thrall with his bold pronouncements and rivalries with opponents and clubs, particularly LAFC in the Galaxy's El Trafico rivalry series.

But the Galaxy won just one playoff game in Zlatan's tenure, and they finished eighth in the overall league table this season after missing the playoffs in his debut campaign. He lost the MLS MVP award this year to LAFC's Carlos Vela, who scored a league-record 34 goals.

Although Ibrahimovic was their most important player for the past two seasons, the Gal-

axy didn't expect Ibrahimovic to end his career with them, and he does not appear to be close to retirement. Rumors of his departure have been heard for months, and Ibrahimovic has never stayed at any club for more than four seasons in his peripatetic career.

Ibrahimovic has been linked recently to a return to AC Milan, where he played two seasons and scored 42 Serie A goals from 2010-12.

Beckham team's debut

David Beckham's Inter Miami Major League Soccer franchise will make their home debut against the superstar's former team Los Angeles Galaxy next year, team officials

confirmed Wednesday.

Beckham's six-year quest to bring top level soccer back to South Florida will finally become a reality when the new season starts next February, although the team will begin the campaign on the road while the building of their Fort Lauderdale stadium is completed.

The 19,000-capacity stadium is currently under construction although club officials stress it will be finished in time for the opening home fixture on March 14.

"This is a historic day that our community has waited for, and we look forward to experiencing it together," Inter Miami official Jurgen Mainka said of the Galaxy fixture.

Nadal stays alive, gets first win at ATP Finals



LONDON

(AP)—Facing match point at 5-1 down in the third set, Rafael

Nadal gave himself about a one-in-a-thousand chance of turning things around against Daniil Medvedev at the ATP Finals.

Those odds turned out to be more than good enough for the top-ranked Spaniard.

Nadal saved that match point with a perfect drop shot and then rallied to beat Medvedev 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6 (4) Wednesday, keeping alive his chances of advancing from the group stage.

"Today is one of those days that one out of 1,000 you win and it happened today," Nadal said. "In that moment (facing match point), what you think is probably in five minutes you are in the locker room, because that's the more normal thing. In that moment, you play with not much pressure because you are almost lost."

Nadal looked headed for a second straight loss at the season-ending tournament but won five games in a row to go 6-5 up in the deciding set. In the tiebreaker, Medvedev missed a routine forehand to hand Nadal a match point and then sent a backhand just wide. That shot was initially called in but was overturned by Hawk-Eye after Nadal challenged the decision.

The win gives Nadal a 1-1 record after two round-robin matches, while Medvedev fell to 0-2.

In the late match, Stefanos Tsitsipas beat defending champion Alexander Zverev 6-3, 6-2 for his second straight win, a result that guarantees him a place in the semifinals.

The other three players all still have a chance of advancing.



Rafael Nadal of Spain plays a return to Alexander Zverev of Germany during their ATP World Tour Finals singles tennis match at the O2 Arena in London, Monday, Nov. 11, 2019.

But the Russian raced out to a 4-0 lead in the third set and had two more break points in the next game. However, Nadal held and then saved a match point at 30-40 in his next service game with a backhand drop shot at the net.

Medvedev then started making more mistakes while Nadal played like a man with nothing to lose, going for winners all over the court.

"Rafa fought his best, because he could just say 'OK, it's over at 5-1 and just give me the point,' but we all know Rafa is not about this," Medvedev said. "I just need to close out such matches."

Nadal's preparations for the ATP Finals were hampered by an abdominal injury that forced him to pull out of the Paris Masters semifinals this month. But he insisted he feels fine physically, and is gradually finding his best game after an error-filled performance against Zverev.

"I have been playing a better level of tennis than the first day in general terms," Nadal said. "Then to win this match is a combination of a lot of things: luck, some mistakes of Daniil, some good moments by myself at the end."

Nadal's win also strengthens his grip on the year-end No. 1 ranking, as it means Novak Djokovic has to win the tournament to have any chance of overtaking him. Djokovic first has to beat Roger Federer on Thursday just to advance to the semifinals.

Tsitsipas, who is making his debut at the tournament for the world's top eight players after a breakthrough season, broke Zverev for a 5-3 lead in the first set and then twice more to go 5-1 up in the second.

With dozens of Greek flags being waved around the O2 Arena, Tsitsipas then served out the match with an ace.

"Once again, it was not just me out there, but a whole bunch of excited people that

came to support me," said Tsitsipas, the first Greek player to qualify for the event. "It was a crew situation."

Zverev could still advance with a win over Medvedev on Friday, and he also lost his second round-robin match last year on his way to the title.

"Things are still in my hands, and I'm looking forward to it, because I can still decide whether I'm here on Saturday or not," the Ger-

man said. "There is nothing I can do about today now. He played a fantastic match, I thought. I played really bad."

Tsitsipas said he was playing with a pain-killing injection in his foot because of an injury but pledged to treat his match with Nadal as a must-win situation even though he's already through to the semifinals.

"I'm going to try to give my soul, and I think it's also a very good challenge for me in

order to prepare for more difficult matches in the semifinals and the final potentially, so this match is going to give me a lot," he said. "It's going to educate me, and I'm going to try to get and absorb as much as I can from that."

In a rematch of this year's U.S. Open final, Nadal came out looking much sharper than in his opening loss to Zverev and broke Medvedev twice in the second set.



FLOWERY

BRANCH, Ga.

(AP)—Colin

Kaepernick's

NFL tryout

sounds more like a setup.

A PR stunt to former teammate Eric Reid, one that comes with all sorts of take-it-or-leave-it conditions.

Reid hopes it's a legitimate conduit back into the league, but his gut feeling that "it's disingenuous" seems right on the mark.

Yet here we are, nearly three years after Kaepernick was exiled from the NFL for kneeling during the national anthem in protest of police violence and racial injustice, with the league seemingly making its first significant step toward giving the quarterback another chance.

On Saturday, the NFL is putting on a workout for Kaepernick at the Atlanta Falcons' suburban training complex, inviting all 32 teams to send

Kaepernick's tryout sounds more like a setup

representatives.

But there are plenty of reasons for Reid and others to doubt that the NFL is really sincere about reopening its doors to such a divisive figure.

"I'll believe it when I see it," said Reid, the Carolina Panthers safety and a former teammate of Kaepernick's who joined in the kneeling protest and paid a hefty price himself. "At this point, it feels like a PR stunt."

The NFL's offer to arrange the workout came as a total surprise to Kaepernick's camp and even, supposedly, to one of the league's most plugged-in owners.

"I have not been part of any discussions with the league about that happening," said Clark Hunt of the Kansas City Chiefs. "I was probably as surprised about it as anybody."

The QB was given a mere two hours to accept or reject the proposal. The league turned down his request that the workout be held on a Tuesday — an off day most weeks for NFL teams and normally a time when tryouts are held — or moved back a week or two to give Kaepernick more time to prepare. With the bulk of this week's games on Sunday, it seems unlikely that any head coaches, general managers or high-level officials will be on hand in Flowery Branch.

A person familiar with the workout says the NFL has refused to provide Kaepernick with a list of teams that plan to attend. The person, speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the plans haven't been released publicly, said a

couple of teams reached out to the quarterback's camp as a courtesy, saying they were caught off guard by the timing and couldn't be there.

Maybe the league didn't think Kaepernick would go along with such a proposal, giving them a chance to say he had snubbed their entrée back into the league.

But Kaepernick, who as of Wednesday hasn't taken a snap in the NFL for 1,046 days, desperately wants a platform to show he's still good enough to play for someone.

Putting the onus back on the league, Kaepernick made it clear he was showing up with an understanding that teams would dispatch those who can actually make decisions.

"I've been in shape and ready for this for 3 years, can't wait to

see the head coaches and GMs on Saturday," Kaepernick tweeted.

Reid doesn't think his teammate will get his wish.

"Being that it's on a Saturday, what decision-makers are going to be able to attend a workout?" he said. Pressed on whether the NFL's offer at least represented some degree of progress, Reid repeated a quote from Malcolm X: "If you stick a knife nine inches in my back and pull it out six, it's not progress. It's still a knife in my back."

Others are more hopeful that this represents a real chance for Kaepernick to resume his NFL career.

"It's a huge opportunity for him," said Miami Dolphins center and captain Daniel Kilgore, who played with Kaepernick on the San Francisco 49ers. "If I know Colin,

he's going to be in shape. He's going to be ready. He should have fresh legs. I'm sure his arm is feeling pretty good."

It remains to be seen how many teams will send representatives, but it will probably be most if not all of them. Even those that don't need a quarterback, such as the Falcons.

"I'm sure we will," Atlanta coach Dan Quinn said. "Who likes a workout better than a scout? Nobody. I'm sure most teams will have people around."

By scheduling such a unique workout under such strange circumstances, the NFL has given everyone a bit of cover to see for themselves what Kaepernick can bring to a team after such a long lay-off, with so many seemingly prime years still ahead of him. He turned 32 less than two weeks ago.

If nothing else, this workout creates plenty of intrigue.

Tight battle expected in MIBL title series

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER



With Saipan Vegas and IT&E's lone encounter in the elimination round of the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League decided by just a deuce, expect another down-to-the-wire battle in their finals showdown, starting tonight at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Saipan Vegas is coming into Game 1 of the short best-of-three title series with a slight psychological advantage due to its thrilling 80-78 victory in their Sept. 28 meeting with IT&E in the regular season.

Before the sorry loss, IT&E seemed poised to end Saipan Vegas' winning streak when Junar Guiab hit a go-ahead triple, 78-77, with five seconds left in the close game. However, Saipan Vegas had the last say, thanks to Preston Basa's buzzer-beating triple off a broken play.

After nosing out IT&E, Saipan Vegas went on to notch four more victories to finish the regular season undefeated and earn the top seed. IT&E ended up as the No. 2 seed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Vegas' Preston Basa, who hit the dagger in their 80-78 win over IT&E in the elimination round, will be a marked man in the title series in the 2019 Atkins Kroll Marianas International Basketball League starting tonight at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

in the playoffs after its lone defeat in the elimination and now has a chance to redeem that loss in the finals.

Both IT&E and Saipan Vegas swept their way to the championship round. IT&E won in its semis series against MS Villagomez after taking Game 1, 94-59, and Game 2, 90-80, while Saipan Vegas topped Caravan's in Game 1,

96-81, and Game 2, 80-76.

For their head-to-head match, besides the 2 points that separated IT&E and Saipan Vegas, the finalists were also pretty close in the assists and steals departments. IT&E had more assists, 22-19, while Saipan Vegas prevailed in the steals category, 23-17.

In the rebounds department, IT&E won, 55-29, due

to its much taller frontliners. However, Saipan Vegas is expected to offset IT&E's better ceiling with its faster and younger guns who will also lead the squad's potent

backcourt pressure defense that has paid dividends for the pennant champion in the elimination round.

The finals opener will be played starting at 6:30pm,

while Game 2 is set for Sunday, also at the MHS Gymnasium at the same time. Game 3, if needed, is set for Nov. 19 with the venue to be announced later.

The Art of War 14 set for Dec. 14



Trench Tech will hold the 14th edition of The Art of War Grappling Submission Challenge on Dec. 14.

The event is open to all interested individuals and will take place at the Trench Tech

Gym in Garapan with matches starting at 9:30am. The Art of War 14 will have competition in the open division for both Gi (all belts) and No Gi, and various weight classes. Registration is now open.

There will be \$20 registration fees per weight class/

division and spectators will also be charged a \$5 fee at the door. Cash prizes will be up for grabs throughout the event for spectators.

For interested individuals, call or text in your name and weight to 670-783-4662 to register. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cuki Alvarez, bottom, and his son, Shane, demonstrate some Brazilian Jiu-jitsu techniques during a class at the Trench Tech Gym, which will be the venue of next month's The Art of War Grappling Submission Challenge.

KNIGHTS

From Page 32

hit the board when Mark Joseph Roque was given a free kick. However, he missed, as his lob went over the crossbar.

Then just a minute after FMS muffed a free kick, Mt. Carmel answered with another goal. Miles Linden led the attack after receiving a forward pass from Toves and the former split through two Napu Riders defenders before taking a shot from left center. Linden missed, as the FMS goalie partially had a hand on the ball, but fortunately for the Knights, Propst was there for a follow-up that gave them a promising 3-0 lead.

Propst made it two in a row, as he lit up the board in the 32nd, courtesy off an assists from Toves, who dribbled toward left center and then backpedaled, spotting the former cutting through right center away from FMS defenders. Propst received the ball and went for a quick release, catching the Napu Riders goalie, who still attempted to deflect the ball, but failed, off guard.

The Knights hung on to the 4-0 advantage at the break with the Napu Riders still searching for the elusive first goal, as in the last two minutes of the first half, Mt. Carmel goalie caught the ball off a long free kick from Carl Salas.

In the second half, the Napu



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of Francisco M. Sablan Middle School pose for a photo after receiving their runner-up trophy during the awards ceremony for the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Riders finally ended their drought when Mark Joseph scored from between right mid and right center. He dribbled past Mt. Carmel defenders and faced two more Knights players, who then collided with one dropping down the pitch. Mark Chavez then moved in for help defense, but was a little bit late, as Mark Joseph took the shot ahead of the Knights goalie and hit the cross.

The Napu Riders got their first goal in the 56th minute and with the team left with a little over 15 minutes to make a rally and bring down the deficit, they became more aggressive on offense. However, Mt. Carmel made two crucial defensive stops to foil FMS'

late comeback bid.

The first one was when Leland Deleon Guerrero, who was defending the left post, leapt for a header and deflected a free kick from Mark Joseph in the 61st minute. After foiling FMS' attempt, Toves got the ball, but his pass was intercepted by Mark Joseph, who this time went for a long shot near center mid, but Chavez was there for the catch and the save.

Mark Joseph's second straight missed opportunity came in the 62nd minute and Mt. Carmel wisely moved the ball around and used the clock en route to the title win.

The Knights were awarded the pennant trophy after the game, while Toves and San

Nicolas received the Golden Boot and Finals MVP awards, respectively. Joining Toves, San Nicolas, Linden, Propst, Chavez, and Deleon Guerrero on the champion team were Ruben Guerrero, Vicente Reyes, Ramona Salas, Andrick Poon, Sunny Kang, Quinn Palacios, and Earl Lacandazo. Mark Toves managed the Knights, while Jeremiah Diaz and Merrick Toves coached the team.

Meanwhile, Saipan International School shut down Hopwood 2, 6-0, to notch third place.

Andrew Chung had a hat trick for the Geckos, while Allen Cho and Will Lee added one goal apiece, and SIS also got an own goal in the lopsided victory.

PAIRE

From Page 32

tos in the 41st minute broke the tie, while Manglona made it a 4-2 lead for Kanoa nine minutes later and the winning team was awarded an own goal to complete a strong showing in the second half.

Meanwhile, Kanoa also won in the Division A game last Friday against Paire via forfeit, while TanHoldings prevailed in the other match in the group after downing Matansa, 6-4.

Kaithlyn Chavez lifted TanHoldings to victory after making a hat trick. She scored twice in the first half with her first goal coming in the 13th minute and the second six minutes later, while her last

was logged in the 30th.

Katrina Costales added a pair after converting her shots in the 23rd and 36th minute, while Mary Joy Aniana added one after lighting up the board in the 24th.

While three players teamed up in handing TanHoldings the win, Matansa leaned solely on Jannah Casarino, who scored in the 10th, 14th, 32nd, and 50th minute.

In other results last Friday, Southern United dominated TanHoldings in the lone Division B game, 7-2.

Erin Frink stood up for Southern United with her four goals, while Keisha Deleon Guerrero chipped in two and Marinel Falalimpa contributed one. TanHoldings' two goals all came from Rizza Relucio.

HOPWOOD

From Page 32

week of the league.

Agape won both sets, 21-0, 21-0, while Dandan 1 defeated Hopwood 2 in similar scores against Hopwood 2. Also getting easy wins in two sets were SIS and GCA, who topped Chacha 2 and Tanapag, respectively.

In other results, Hopwood 3 faced off Chacha 1 and labored its way to a 21-16 win in the first set before recording a much easier 21-12 victory in the second.

Action in the middle school volleyball league will continue this weekend and 12 games will be played starting at 9am.

On the North Court, Chacha 1 will take on Mt. Carmel 1; Hopwood 3 will face Agape; Dandan 2 will battle FMS and Hopwood 3; Agape will face Mt. Carmel 1; and Chacha 1 will duel Hopwood 1. On the South Court, the pairings are the following: SIS vs Mt. Carmel 2; Chacha 2 vs GCA; Dandan 1 vs Tanapag; Dandan 1 vs Chacha 2; GCA vs Mt. Carmel 2; and SIS vs Hopwood 2.



Verlander,
deGrom win
2nd Cy Young
Awards

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Harden scores
47, powers
Rockets past
Clippers

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Knights reign supreme

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mt. Carmel School capped its impressive season in the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League with a 4-1 victory over Francisco M. Sablan Middle School in their title duel last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Devin Propst, Markus Toves, and Gabby San Nicolas swept their five games in the regular season and downed Hopwood Middle School 2, 5-2, the Knights, who finished the competition unbeaten. They



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mt. Carmel School players and coaches celebrate their title win after beating Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 4-1, in the finals of the 2019 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Paire, Kanoa prevail

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Paire Football Club shut down Matansa FC, 4-0, while Kanoa FC outclassed TanHoldings FC, 5-2, in the pair of masters division games in the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Paire eased to victory after getting its offensive game going in the second half. Three different players hit the board for Paire in the final half with Shawna Brennflect scoring in the 34th minute and Lindsay Davis in the 43rd. Tanuja Edvalson

closed out for Paire in the 46th minute, while Patricia Coleman handed the team's its first goal in the one-sided game after finding the back of the net in the fifth.



In the other masters division match, Kanoa also played better in the second half to top TanHoldings.

Kanoa and TanHoldings were in a deadlock after the first half with Eunnie Benavente recording the pair of goals for the latter and Manami Manglona and Katherine Mersai registering one apiece for the former.

A goal from Lanie San-

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

TanHoldings Football Club's Magie Chavez, center, deflects the ball hit by Lanie Santos, while the latter's teammate Amalia Quintos looks on during the first half of their masters division game in the 2019 Dove Women's Fall League last Sunday at the TSL Sports Complex.

the finale to bring home the division championship.

In the title showdown, All of Mt. Carmel's goals were recorded in the first half, giving the Knights momentum, while Napu Riders could not cash in on multiple opportunities to

score, as they failed to complete plays off corner and free kicks.

Toves, who towers above FMS players and even his teammates, deflected one of those corner kicks with a header and Mt. Carmel went on to attack on the other end, but lost the ball.

A brief exchange of possessions took place with Toves finally controlling the leather for the Knights, pushing the ball ahead of him and chasing it down before unloading a cross to draw first blood in the 16th minute.

Ten minutes after Toves'

conversion, San Nicolas eluded a phalanx of FMS defenders and made it a 2-0 lead for Mt. Carmel.

In the 29th minute, the Napu Riders had a chance to

See KNIGHTS on Page 31

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER



Hopwood Middle School 1 delivered in its opening game after defeating

Dandan Middle School 2 in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League that kicked off last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Hopwood 1 had a rousing start in its debut after hammering Dandan 2 in the first set, 21-6. The Hilitais ended up sweeping its debut game following a 21-12 triumph in the second.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood 2 and 3, Chacha Oceanview Middle School 1 and 2, DMS 1, Grace Christian School, Tanapag Middle School, and Saipan International School also played in the opening

See HOPWOOD on Page 31

Hopwood 1 wins season debut



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

A Hopwood Middle School 1 player tries to keep her balance as she hits the ball back to Dandan Middle School 2 during the opening of the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Girls Middle School Volleyball League last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.